

Featuring
THE

BLACK HOOD

TOP-NOTCH

NO. 23 JAN.

comics 10c



also THE
WIZARD
with ROY, the SUPER-BOY



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

**FRAIL...WEAK...UNDEVELOPED?
TRY THIS QUICK EASY
WAY TO GET BIG HUSKY
HANDSOME MUSCLES!**

**New 37 Feature Body Builder Gets
Amazing Results for Thousands.**

Used by Champs. Costs Little!

**With the big HERCULES
EXERCISER OUTFIT you
can set up a gym right
at home. Enough equip-
ment to exercise every
muscle in the body!**



If you're frail weak undeveloped and not rugged enough to mix it up with the big fellows, start doing something about it today. Don't forget, the fellow with the husky, muscular, athletic build needn't take back talk from anybody. He knows how to handle himself and because he is well trained, has more confidence in his ability to tackle anything that comes along. So don't be a "softie" or a "sissy." Start getting in shape with the HERCULES MUSCLE BUILDING TRAINING OUTFIT now.

HERE'S WHAT YOU GET!

With the complete HERCULES TRAINING OUTFIT you get everything needed to whip yourself into superb physical condition and at the same time learn the inside tricks of muscular development.

First of all you get the big powerful 10-CABLE EXERCISER that is adjustable to 200 pounds resistance. These adjustable cables allow graduated and regulated muscular development. You can start with but 4 or 5 cables and gradually add on more as you feel yourself getting stronger. In addition you get real big and tough 10-CABLE HANDLES that fit the hand comfortably and last a lifetime. Even the cables themselves are woven in tough extra-heavy strands to give long life.

For rippling back and shoulder muscles and flat wash-board stomach muscles, the special WALL EXERCISER equipment is just what you need. The same type of equipment used by champ fighters who must protect the stomach with layers of firm solid muscle. You'll like the way the Wall Exerciser handles how it gives those back muscles a real work-out. If you like boxing, you'll get a big kick out of the way the SHADOW BOXER helps put power in your punches. A regulation SKIP ROPE is also supplied a necessary part of every boxer's training equipment.

With the ROWING MACHINE attachments you also help the stomach muscles as well as the biceps and shoulder muscles. In each HERCULES OUTFIT is also included the famous adjustable HEAD AND FOOT HARNESS. This was specially designed to develop strong powerful necks. Even skinny, scrawny necks show amazing response to this exercise. Used as a foot harness, this helps build strong calves and ankles.

You'll also be equipped with the heavy-duty HAND GRIP like boxers use to develop wrist and forearm muscles. If you're interested in JIU-JITSU and WRESTLING illustrated charts are all supplied with complete instructions. A SPECIAL 30-DAY TRAINING PROGRAM is fully described and tells you what to do step by step. You even get FOOD FACTS for vitality MUSCLE GAUGE to test your own strength.

Instructions on how to develop CHEST EXPANSION HOW TO GET STRONG what to do for POWERFUL LEGS. In fact, here is everything you could need to give you that strong healthy body you have always wanted.

So why wait any longer? Send for the big HERCULES MUSCLE BUILDING TRAINING OUTFIT today.

TRAINING JIU-JITSU HOW TO GET STRONG

Posed by Professional models

LIMITED OFFER — ACT NOW!

Think of it practically a complete gymnasium right in your own home. **AND THE ENTIRE OUTFIT STILL COSTS ONLY \$3.49!** The price is being held down as long as possible but don't take chances get your outfit while the price is low. Send no money now. Just fill out the coupon below with your name and address (or on a postcard) and we will ship everything out by return mail. When the outfit arrives pay the postman \$3.49 plus postal charges (Outside U. S. 56c extra Cash with order)

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39 West 60th Street, Dept. A-79, New York, N. Y.

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FELLOW WITH THE
ATHLETE'S BUILD
THAT'S POPULAR!**

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Please rush me the complete HERCULES MUSCLE BUILDING TRAINING OUTFIT by return mail. I will pay postman \$3.49 plus postal charges when package arrives.

Name.....
Address.....
City..... State.....
(If under 16 order must be signed by parent or guardian.)

THE BLACK HOOD



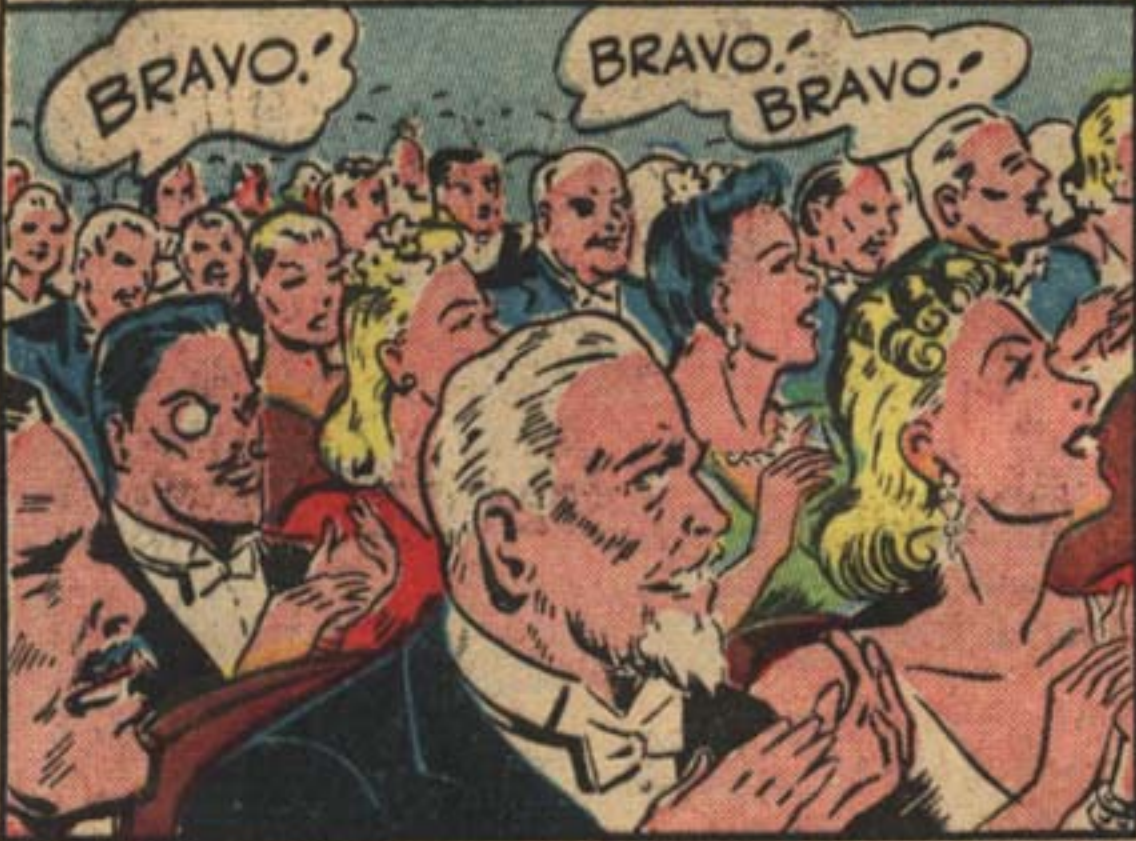
MAN OF MYSTERY

THE OPERA: RIGOLETTO SINGS HIS FINAL ARIA BEFORE THE CURTAIN FALLS... AND A CHILL COURSES THROUGH THE AUDIENCE AT THE WEIRD MENACE IN ITS TONE. FOR IN THE SCENE ENACTED BY THE HUNCHBACK IS A GRIM, STARK REALISM.... AND IN HIS WILD MELODY A PREMONITION OF SWIFT VIOLENT DEATH....



Comy

THE AUDIENCE WILDLY APPLAUDS HIS PERFORMANCE...



RIGOLETTO ACKNOWLEDGES THE APPLAUSE.



A VERY IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE, WAS IT NOT? MUCH MORE BEAUTIFULLY RENDERED THAN IF THAT FROG, WHO'S PLACE I AM TAKING, HAD SUNG IT.



I DIDN'T KNOW THERE HAD BEEN A CHANGE IN THE CAST.



AH, BUT IT IS A JOKE, I ASSURE YOU! A VERY GRIM JOKE PERPETRATED BY ME - THE FLY! A JOKE OF DEATH!



BEFORE THE LAST ECHO OF THE MOCKING-TONES HAVE DIED AWAY, A FIGURE OF ANOTHER RIGOLETTO DROPS FROM ABOVE.



HE'S GONE MAD!

AND THE FLY HAS ANOTHER JEST! THERE IS A VERY BEAUTIFUL NECKLACE AT THE INTERNATIONAL BANK. IF YOU WISH TO WITNESS ANOTHER PERFECT PERFORMANCE, COME AND SEE ME ROB IT TONIGHT AT TWELVE, HA, HA, HA!



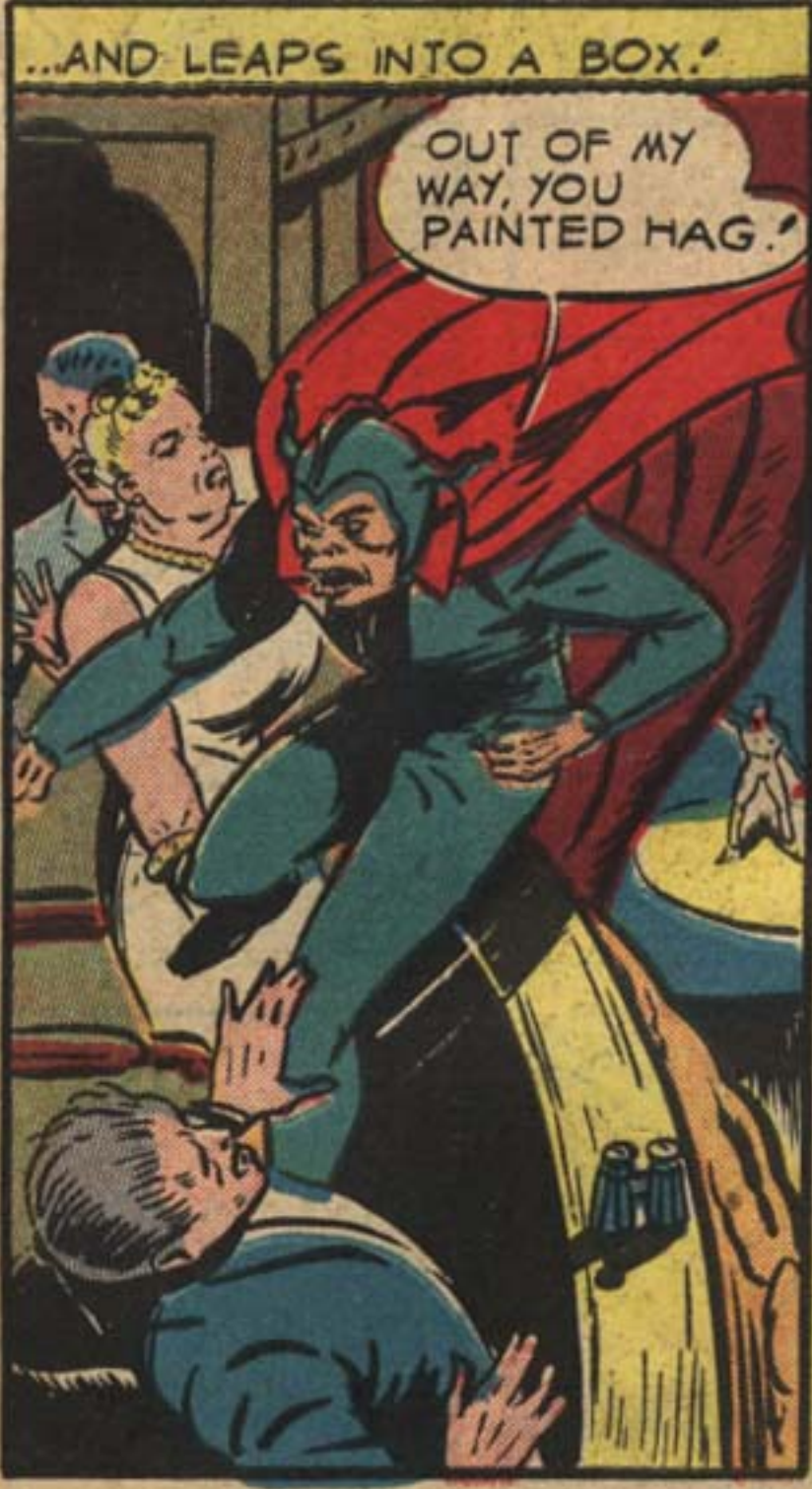


AND THEN OUT OF THE MAD SCRAMBLE OF HUMAN BODIES, A LONE FIGURE COOLY DISENGAGES ITSELF - KIP BURLAND!

TIME FOR THE BLACK HOOD TO MAKE HIS GRAND ENTRY!



NIMBLY, THE FLY SCRAMBLES UP THE CURTAIN....



...AND LEAPS INTO A BOX!

OUT OF MY WAY, YOU PAINTED HAG!



AND IN CLOSE PURSUIT, WITH EQUAL NIMBLENESS - THE BLACK HOOD!

WHEW! HE SURE PICKED HIMSELF A GOOD NAME! HE'S A FLY, ALL RIGHT - A HUMAN FLY!



HE MUST HAVE GONE DOWN THIS HALLWAY BUT HE'S CERTAINLY DISAPPEARED!



IT'S TOSCI WHO WAS TO HAVE SUNG RIGOLLETO TONIGHT! HE'S DEAD!

I NEVER SUSPECTED AN IMPOSTOR WAS SINGING ALL THIS TIME!



THE POLICE ACCEPT THE FLY'S CHALLENGE...

CALLING ALL CARS, CALLING ALL CARS, PROCEED TO INTERNATIONAL BANK BUILDING - AT ONCE!



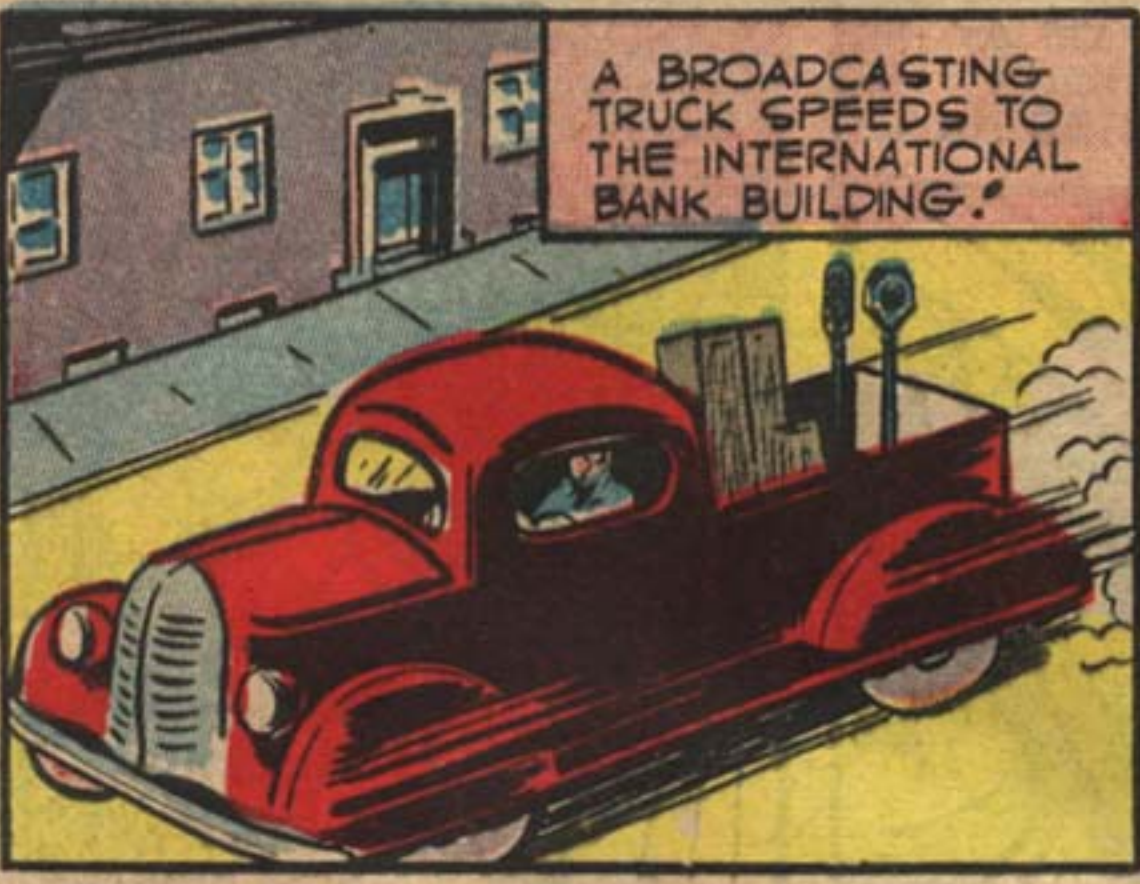
POLICE CARS TEAR ACROSS THE CITY STREETS FROM ALL DIRECTIONS



AT A BROADCASTING STUDIO.....

CAN'T YOU SEE IT BOSS? BROADCASTING THAT NECKLACE ROBBERY WILL BE THE BIGGEST RADIO STUNT EVER. LET ME DO IT, WILL YOU?

HMM... MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT!



A BROADCASTING TRUCK SPEEDS TO THE INTERNATIONAL BANK BUILDING.



BANK

STAND BACK!

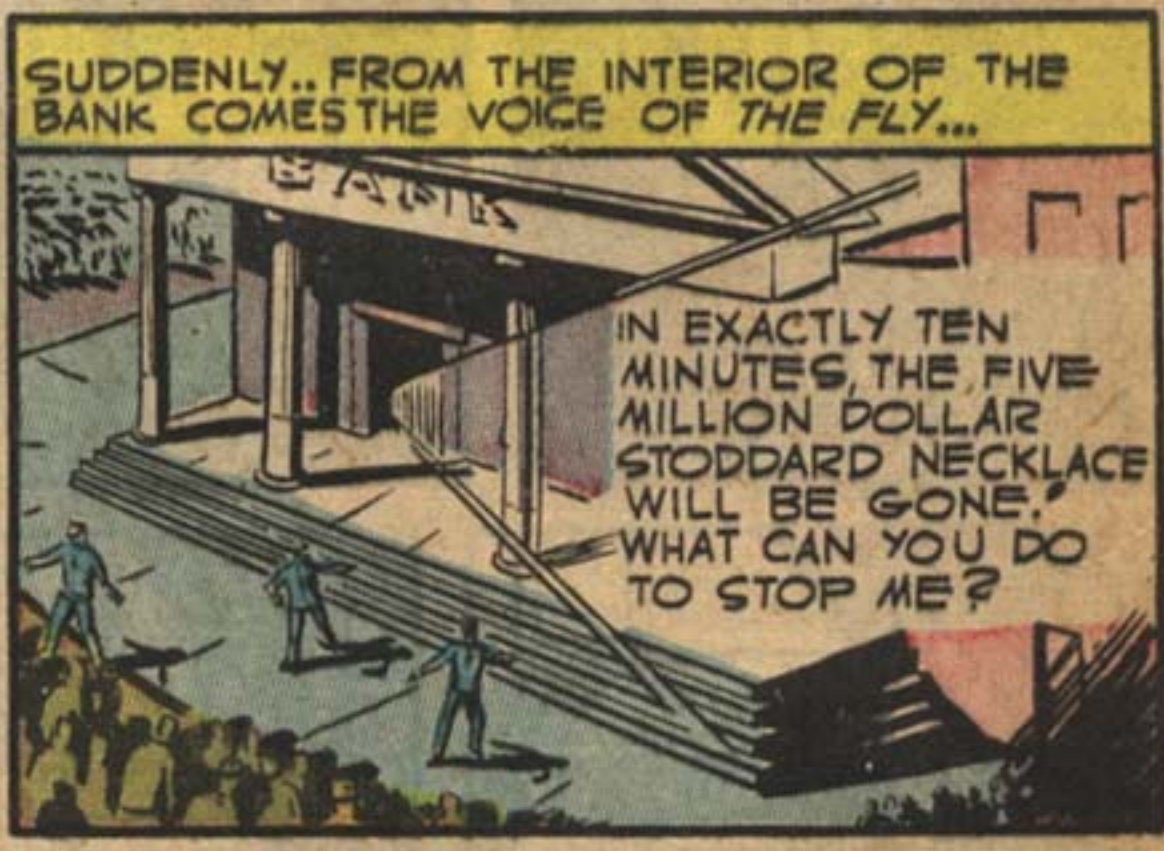
KEEP 'EM BACK! THERE MAY BE SHOOTING!

DO YOU THINK HE'LL REALLY DO IT?



IT IS NOW ELEVEN MINUTES TO TWELVE, FOLKS, AT THE SCENE OF WHAT MAY BE THE MOST SPECTACULAR ROBBERY IN HISTORY. I AM GOING TO DESCRIBE IN DETAIL EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS. THE ENTIRE BUILDING IS SURROUNDED IT DOESN'T SEEM AS IF ANYBODY COULD POSSIBLY GET INTO THE BANK...

N.Y. RADIO CAST



SUDDENLY.. FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE BANK COMES THE VOICE OF THE FLY...

IN EXACTLY TEN MINUTES, THE FIVE MILLION DOLLAR STODDARD NECKLACE WILL BE GONE. WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STOP ME?



YOU SAPS! THOUGHT YOU SEARCHED THE PLACE! HE'S IN THERE! GO GET HIM!



HE MUST BE HERE SOMEPLACE.



THERE'S NOBODY IN THERE, SARGE!

WHAT! DON'T GIVE ME THAT! I HEARD HIM, DIDN'T I?



THIS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS ABSOLUTELY THE MOST DARING CHALLENGE EVER FLUNG AT THE POLICE. THE FLY DEFIES THEM AND YET THEY ARE POWERLESS TO FIND HIM.



DO YOUR WORST, YOU BUNGLING APES! IN EXACTLY TWO MINUTES THE NECKLACE WILL BE GONE AND I WITH IT!

WHAT TH'...



YOU HEARD HIM THAT TIME, YE SAPS! NOW GO IN, AND GET HIM OR TURN IN YOUR SHIELDS!



THE BLACK HOOD GOES INTO ACTION!

NOW TO GET DOWN TO A WINDOW OF THE BANK!



I HOPE HE'S STILL AROUND!



THE VOICE OF THE FLY!

HA, HA! YOU BUNGLING APES!



THE BLACK HOOD DASHES IN THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE VOICE CAME!



WHAT'S THAT BUZZING SOUND?



THE BLACK HOOD RIPS THE TOP OFF THE WINDOW LEDGE!



A PHONOGRAPH RECORD MADE WITH THE FLY'S VOICE!



HERE'S ANOTHER ONE! THE FLY PLANTED THEM IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT PLACES TO GO OFF AT INTERVALS!



A DISTINGUISHED LOOKING GENTLEMAN APPEARS ON THE SCENE!

WHAT'S THE EXCITEMENT ABOUT?

THE FLY'S HERE! HE'S GONNA STEAL THE NECKLACE!

MR. BANKS

NECKLACE?
WHAT
NECKLACE?

THE FIVE
MILLION DOL-
LAR STODDARD
NECKLACE!
WHADDYA
DOIN', KIDDIN'
ME?



THERE'S NO FIVE
MILLION DOLLAR
NECKLACE BEING
KEPT IN THIS BANK!



HE'S RIGHT,
MCGINTY.
IT WAS JUST
A GAG!

A GAG!
WHADDYA
MEAN -
A GAG?



THE FLY'S VOICE WAS
COMING FROM THESE
PHONOGRAPH RECORDS.
HE'S PROBABLY MILES
FROM HERE!



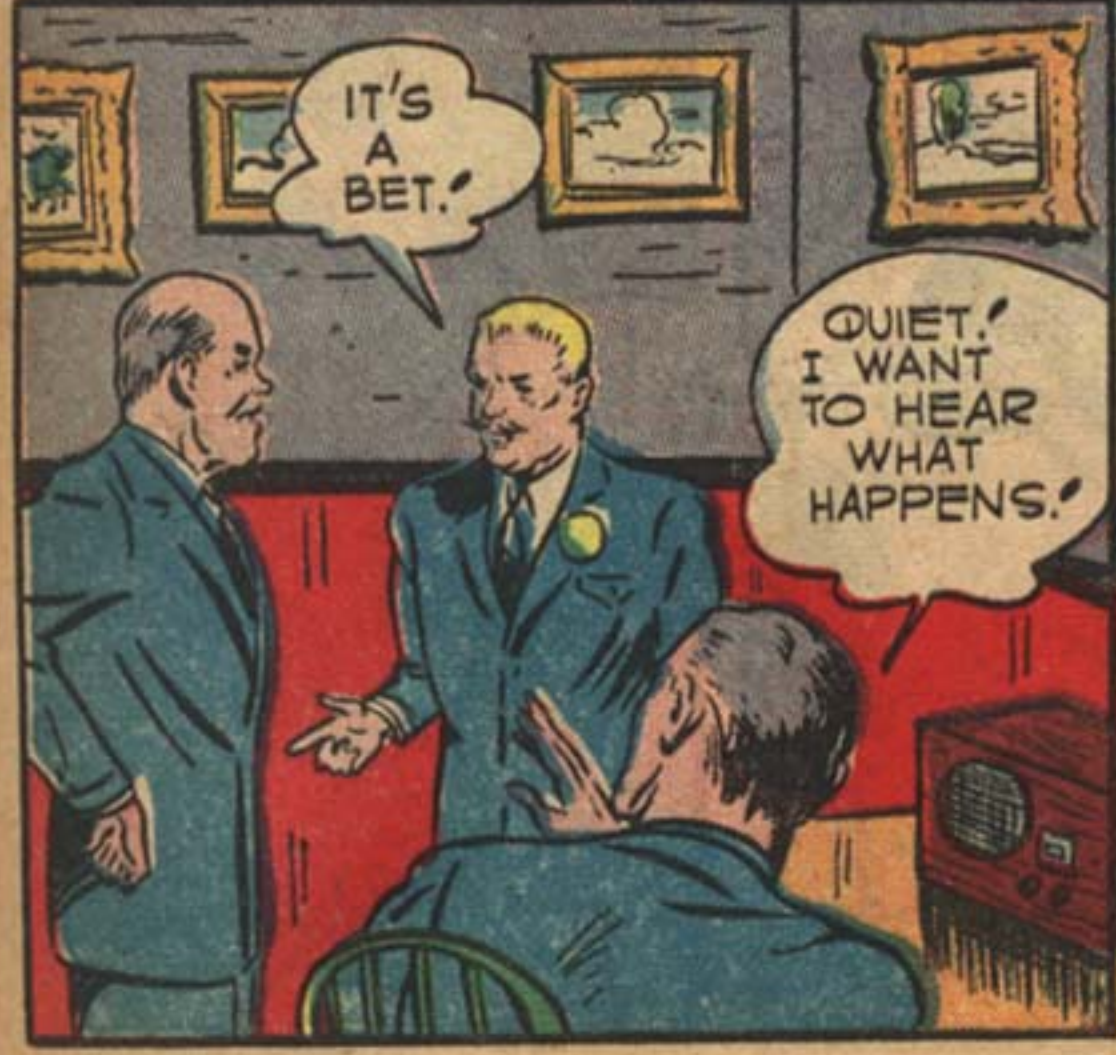
WELL
I'LL BE...
* @ . ! ? ?

IN THE MEANTIME AT THE MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF
ART, THE GUARDS LISTEN TO THE RADIO...



THE FLY IS
SOMEWHERE
IN THAT BANK
HURLING IN-
SULTS AT
THE POLICE.
THEY STILL
HAVEN'T
FOUND HIM!

TWO TO ONE
THE FLY GETS
THE NECKLACE!



IT'S
A
BET!

QUIET!
I WANT
TO HEAR
WHAT
HAPPENS!



WHILE THE GUARDS
LISTEN, A WARPED
FIGURE SLINKS
THROUGH THE
GALLERY....

STAND BY, FOLKS.
SOMETHING NEW
SEEMS TO HAVE
HAPPENED...



AND CUTS A PRICELESS PAINTING FROM ITS FRAME...

HA! THE BLUE BOY! I'VE WANTED THIS FOR YEARS!

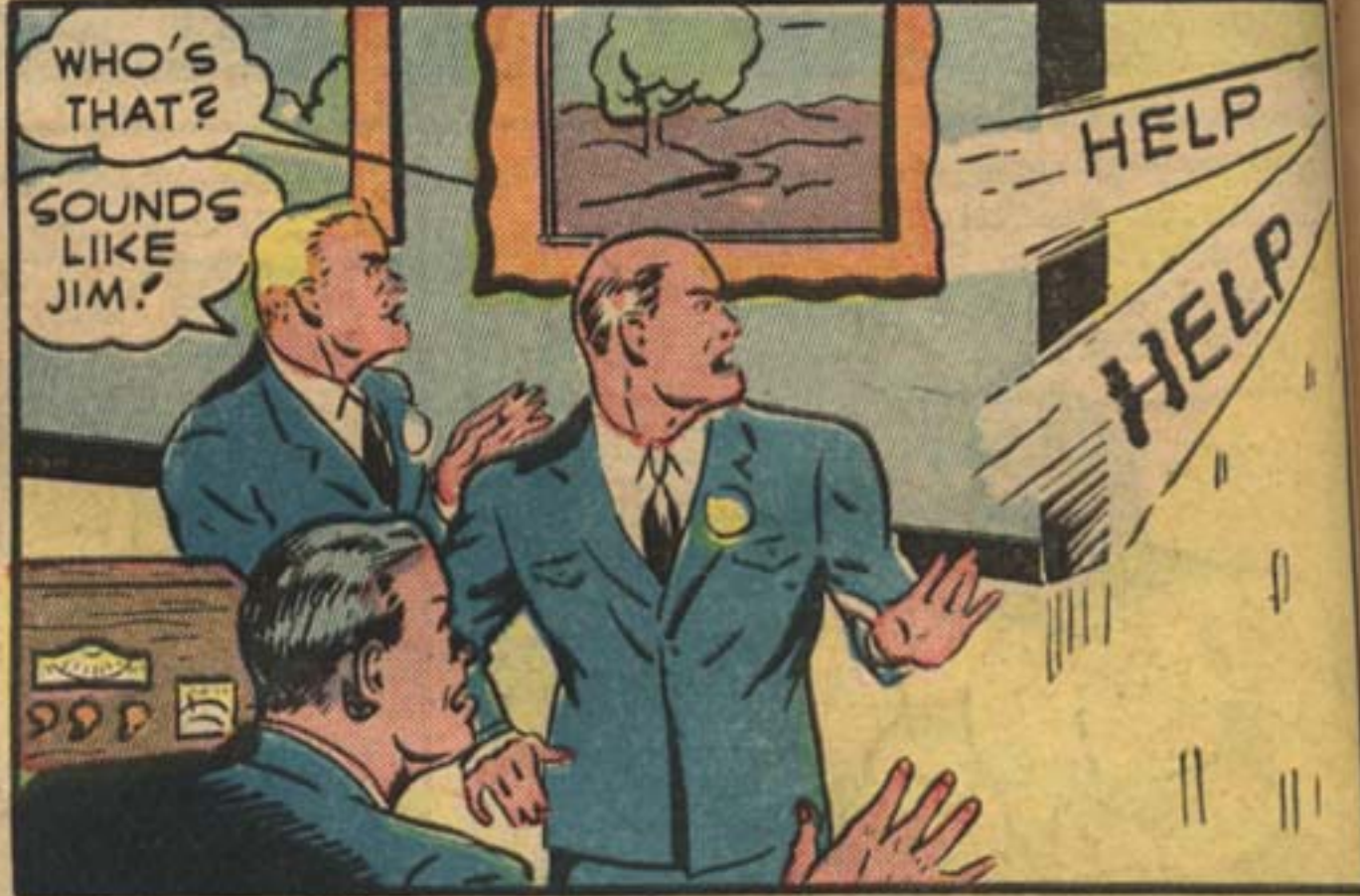


WH. WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP!

A GUARD!



YOU MEDDLING IDIOT!



WHO'S THAT?

SOUNDS LIKE JIM!

HELP

HELP



DROP THOSE PAINTINGS OR I'LL SHOOT!

HA, HA! WHY DON'T YOU TRY TAKING THEM FROM ME?



THE FLY LEAPS OUT THE WINDOW!...



... AND SCRAMBLES DOWN THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING!...

NOW THESE MASTERPIECES ARE MINE! MINE!



GOSH! LOOK AT HIM GO DOWN THE WALL -- LIKE A FLY!



AND THE POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR ME AT THE BANK!



HELLO! POLICE HEADQUARTERS? THE FLY! HE'S HERE!... AT THE MUSEUM!



CALLING ALL CARS! GO TO THE MUNICIPAL MUSEUM. THE FLY WAS JUST SEEN THERE!



HURRY, YOU GUYS! HE GOT AWAY! SURROUND THE MUSEUM AS SOON AS WE GET THERE!



AS THE POLICE CARS LEAVE THE BANK...

HM... I HAVE AN IDEA THEY'RE ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE AGAIN!

IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS NOW THAT THE FLY PULLED THAT STUNT AT THE BANK SO HE COULD DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM HIS REAL ROBBERY-- AT THE MUSEUM!



AND I THINK I KNOW WHERE HIS HOME IS!

IN A SUBTERRANEAN HALL FAR BENEATH THE OPERA HOUSE...



NOW THE PRICELESS BLUE BOY AND THE FAWN WILL HANG ON MY WALLS WITH THE REST OF MY BEAUTIFUL PICTURES!



THIS IS JUST THE SPOT FOR IT.

NOW THE FLY SITS DOWN AT A GIANT ORGAN... AND HIS TALON-LIKE HANDS DRAW FORTH SAD, HAUNTING CHORDS...



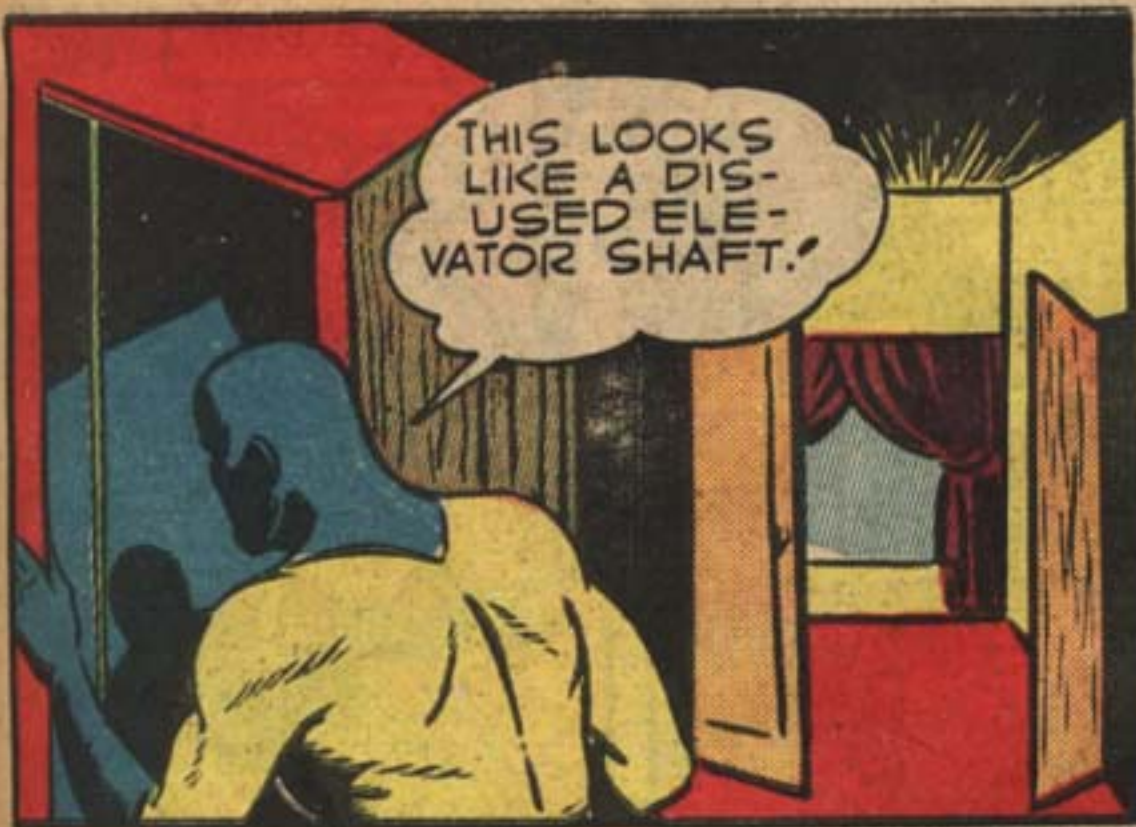
THE LAST TIME I CHASED HIM, HE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED SOMEWHERE IN THE OPERA HOUSE.

ORGAN MUSIC! IT SEEMS TO BE COMING THROUGH THE FLOOR!



WELL, I SEEM TO HAVE GUESSED RIGHT. THIS IS THE FLY'S HAUNT... NOW TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THAT MUSIC!





CLINGING TO A CABLE THE BLACK HOOD GLIDES DOWN THE SHAFT....





IN FACT, I SHALL ENTERTAIN YOU WITH MUSIC - BEAUTIFUL MUSIC AND FRAGRANT PERFUMES!

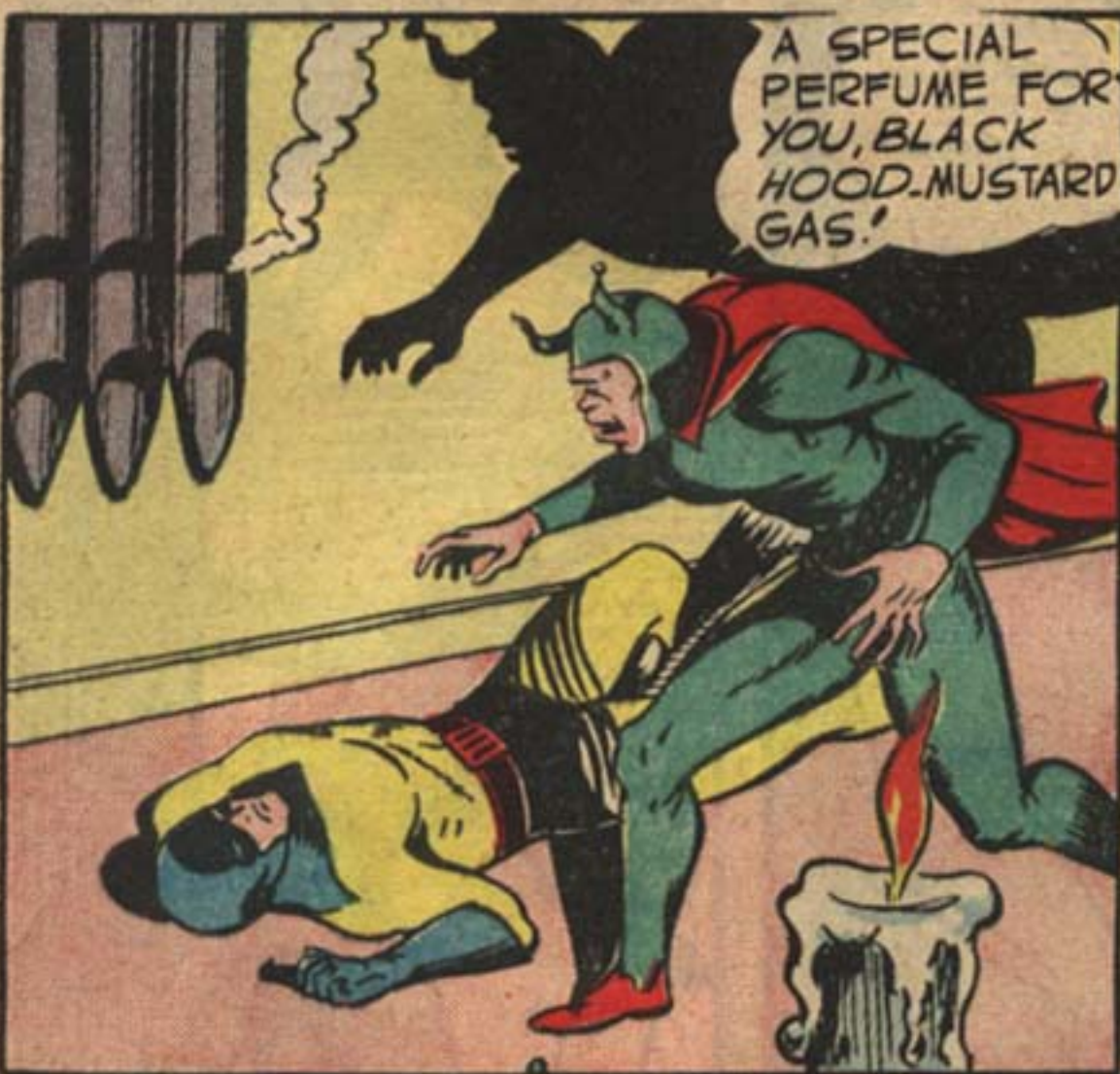


YOU KNOW BY THIS TIME, HOW FOND I AM OF THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN LIFE. NOTE THESE ORGAN-STOPS, HOOD! THEY RELEASE PERFUME THROUGH THOSE ORGAN PIPES.



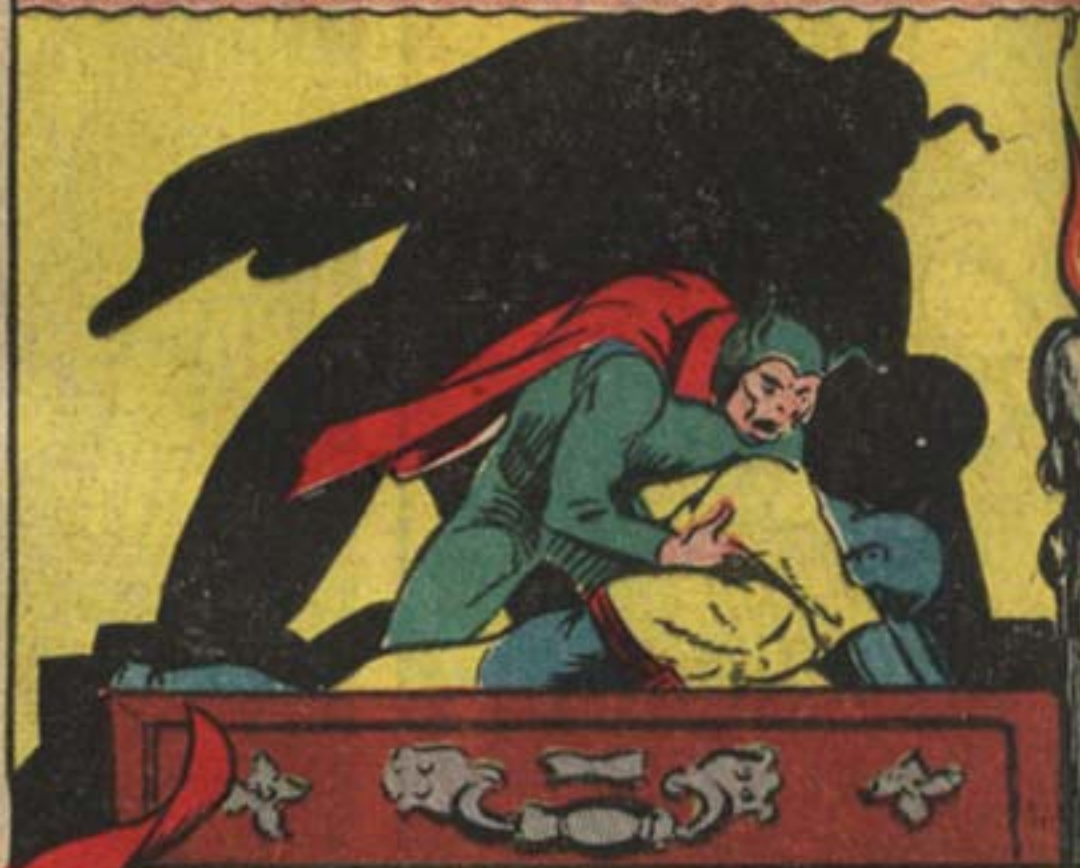
SUDDENLY -

OOPS!



A SPECIAL PERFUME FOR YOU, BLACK HOOD - MUSTARD GAS!

THE FLY PLACES THE SEEMINGLY DEAD BODY OF THE BLACK HOOD IN THE LUXURIOUS COFFIN WHICH NORMALLY SERVES AS THE FLY'S BED...



THE TIME HAS COME TO CLOSE THE LID!



SORRY, I'M NOT READY TO BE BURIED YET!

YOU DIDN'T QUITE CATCH ME OFF GUARD, FLY. I DUCKED JUST IN TIME.



WELL SEEM'S LIKE I HAVE THE FLY ON THE FLY.

WITH THE BLACK HOOD BEHIND HIM, THE FLY SCRAMBLES UP THE CABLE IN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT.



I'VE LOST HIM IN THIS BLACKNESS. I'LL TAKE A CHANCE AND GET OUT ON THIS FLOOR.



THIS LEADS TO THE STAGE.

FROM OVERHEAD, A HEAVY SANDBAG FALLS AND NARROWLY MISSES THE BLACK HOOD.



THAT WAS CLOSE.

I MISSED YOU THAT TIME BUT I WON'T AGAIN.



HE'S FAST BUT HE CAN'T KEEP IT UP FOREVER!



A WILD PURSUIT FROM BOX TO BOX IN THE SILENT OPERA HOUSE...



THE FLY MAKES A DARING LEAP AND CLUTCHES AT A GIANT CHANDELIER!

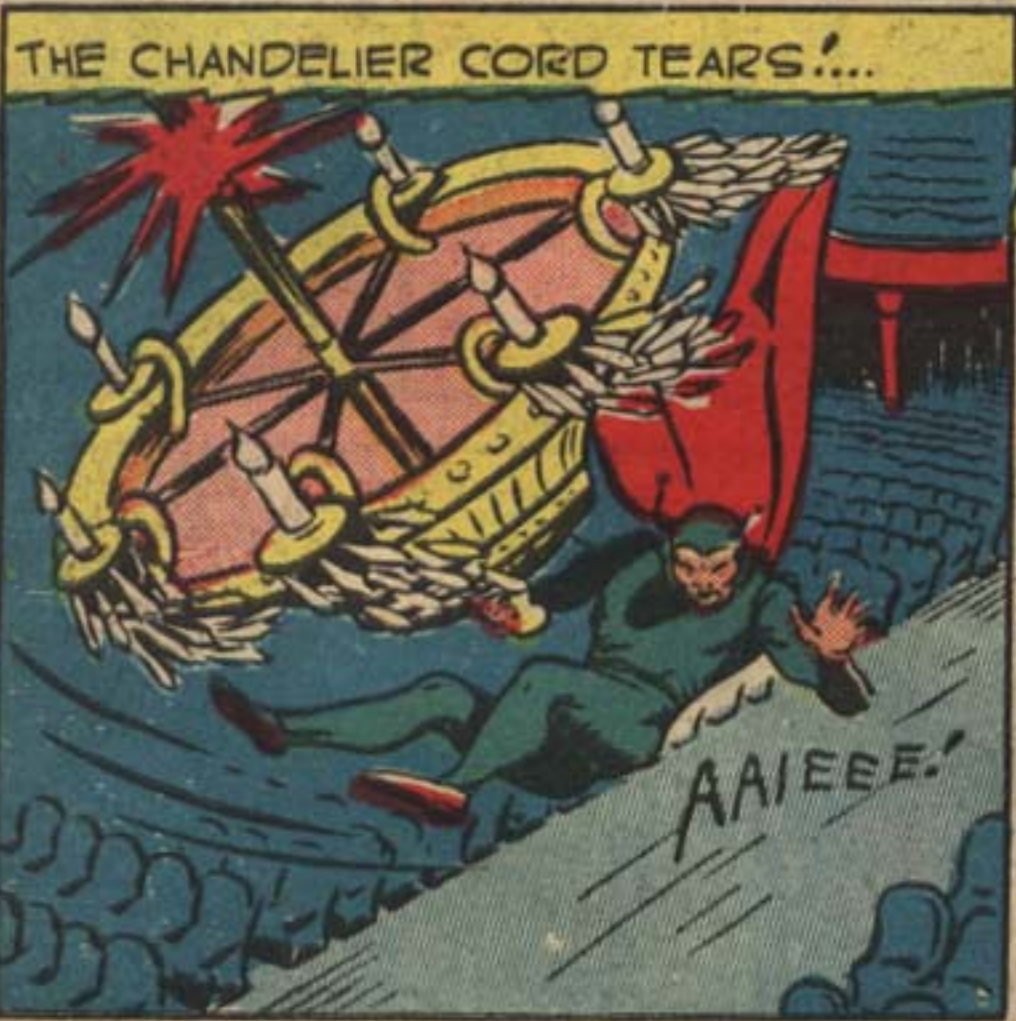


THIS TIME YOU SHALL DIE, MY FRIEND!



BUT THE BLACK HOOD LEAPS DOWN OUT OF HARM'S WAY!...

YOU'RE WRONG AGAIN!



THE CHANDELIER CORD TEARS!...

AAIEEE!



A STRANGE ENDING FOR AN EVEN STRANGER CREATURE! AN ARTIST'S SOUL AND A WARPED BRAIN! WHAT A PITY!

AND SO, HIS WEIRD TASK DONE, THE BLACK HOOD LEAVES THE SCENE AND IS SWALLOWED UP BY THE THICK DRAPES OF GLOOM! GLOOM FROM WHENCE HE EMERGED AND WHOSE THICK, IMPENETRABLE VEIL IS A CLOAK FOR THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE!

A BRAND NEW FULL-LENGTH, 50,000 WORD BLACK HOOD NOVEL AWAITS YOU IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF HOODED DETECTIVE MAGAZINE... THE ONLY DETECTIVE MAGAZINE FEATURING THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE! AND WITH THIS MAGAZINE GOES A GUARANTEE! A GUARANTEE THAT YOU'LL GET THE SAME BLOOD - PULSING READING PLEASURE, THE SAME HIGH-STANDARD MYSTERY YARN THAT THE BLACK HOOD HAS GIVEN YOU ALL ALONG! ONLY TEN CENTS!... ON SALE RIGHT NOW!!

The WIZARD

WITH **ROY,**
THE **SUPER-BOY**

REGISTERED UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE



WORKING FIENDISHLY IN HIS LABORATORY—
A BLOOD-CRAZY SCIENTIST DELVES
INTO THE SECRETS OF SPACE AND
TIME. WORLD RULE HIS GOAL—UNTIL
THE GHASTLY RESULTS OF HIS MAD
EXPERIMENTS ARE CAST UP
BY THE RIVER—TO
BAFFLE THE MET-
ROPOLITAN
POLICE—AND SET
THE WIZARD ON
HIS TRAIL.

ONCE AGAIN—A WATER-LOGGED CORPSE IS CAST
UP—GRIM REMINDER OF A MAD KILLER AT
LARGE—TO JOIN....



...THE BLOOD DRAINED CORPSES WHICH BY
NOW LIE IN ROWS IN THE CITY MORGUE—
ALL VICTIMS BY THE SAME HAND.



WORLD MAIL
 ANOTHER BODY REOCCURS
 AMERICAN GLOBE
 BLOOD DRAINED CORPSE FOUND IN RIVER
 - UNION NEWS -
 POLICE POWERLESS AS ANOTHER BODY IS FOUND IN RIVER
 AGAIN THE POLICE ADMITTED THEY WERE STUMPED IN FINDING THE SOLUTION TO THE STRANGE MURDERS.

BLANE WHITNEY - "THE WIZARD" AND ROY - THE SUPER-BOY DISCUSS THE CASE

GOSH THOSE MURDERS HAVE THE POLICE STUMPED WONDER WHO THE KILLER IS?

I THINK I KNOW ROY, AND I'M GOING AFTER HIM!

BUT I'M GOING ALONE THIS TIME, ROY... AND YOU CAN WAIT HERE, FOR ME... I DON'T THINK I'LL BE VERY LONG.

BUT... GEE - THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY QUIET LATELY - I'D LIKE EXCITEMENT.

NO, ROY... I WON'T NEED YOU. WHY DON'T YOU LISTEN TO THE WITCHES CAULDRON ON THE RADIO WHILE I'M GONE?

OKAY... I'LL WAIT... HUH? SOME EXCITEMENT... LISTENING TO A RADIO PROGRAM.

WISH HE'D TAKEN ME WITH HIM THOUGH - OH WELL I MIGHT AS WELL TUNE IN, HOPE IT'S A GOOD PROGRAM.

ROY FINDING THE PROGRAM INTERESTING... LISTENS... ABSORBED IN THE TALE - THEN THE DOOR OPENS QUIETLY.

A SINISTER FIGURE SLIPS IN - THIN ARMS CREEP TOWARD ROY'S THROAT.

SO IT'S EXCITEMENT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, EH? WELL, YOU'LL GET IT! MORE THAN YOU EVER DREAMED!

HEY - WHAT THE -

REACTING WITH LIGHTNING-SWIFTNESS, THE SUPER BOY TWISTS THE SKULKING FIGURE THROUGH THE AIR!...



I NEVER DID LIKE SURPRISES, MR... ESPECIALLY, THE KIND THAT SNEAK UP FROM BEHIND!



NOT SO FAST, YOU YOUNG DEVIL!



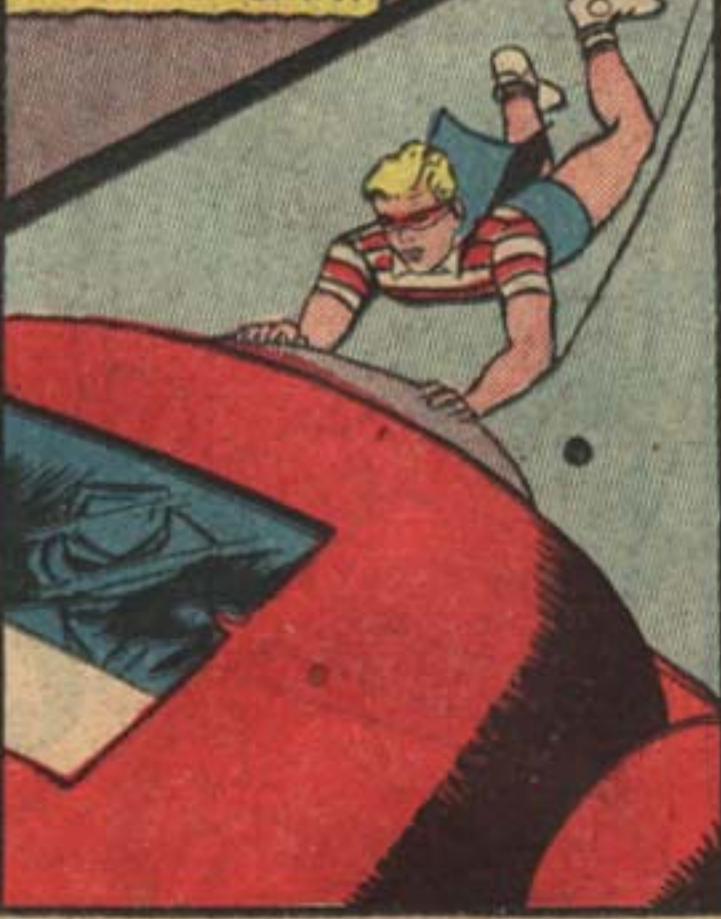
THWARTED, THE CAPED FIGURE DASHES FROM THE ROOM AS THE BOY, STUNNED, RISES!



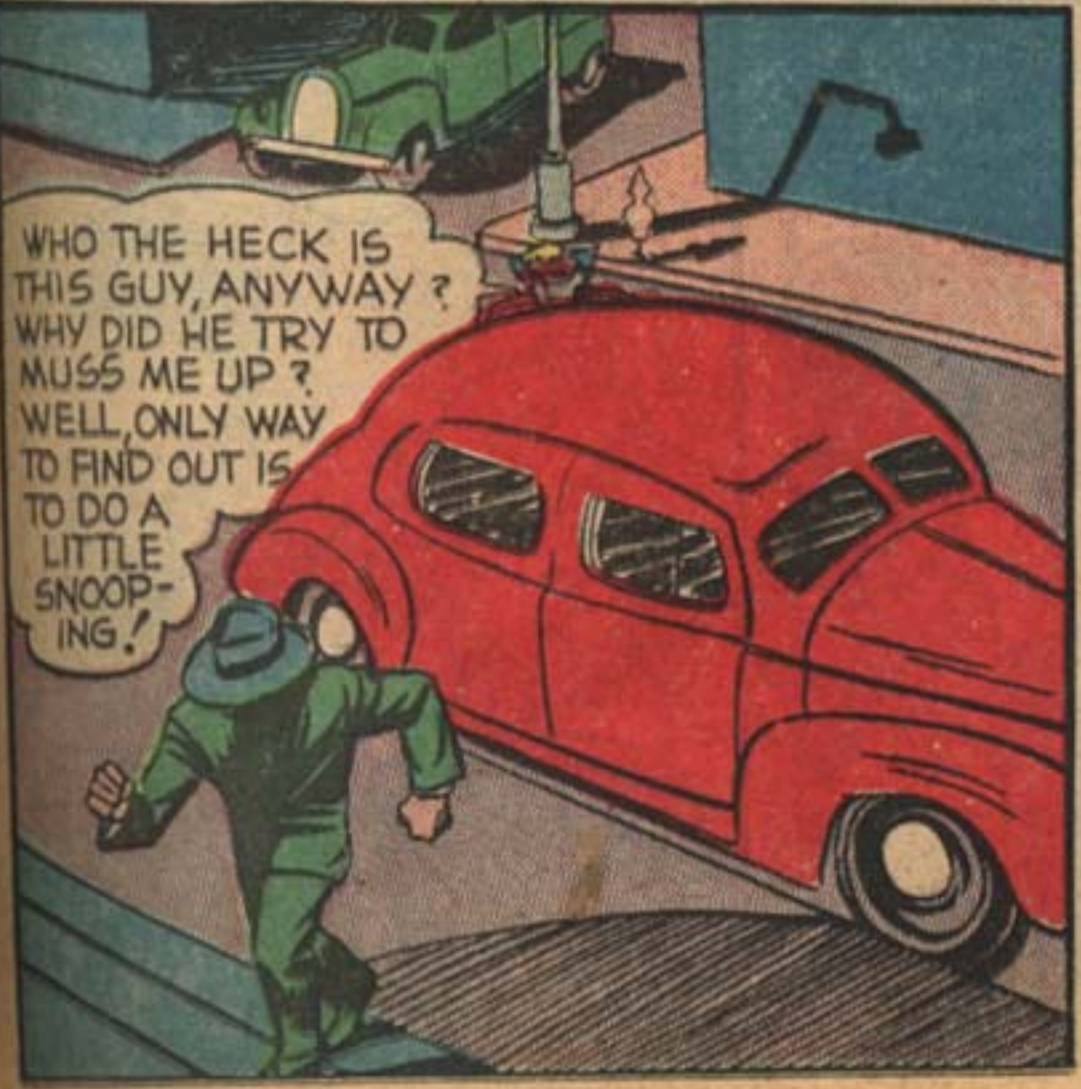
THEN... AS ROY RUNS OUT AFTER HIS MYSTERIOUS ATTACKER...



A TREMENDOUS LEAP AND ROY LANDS ON THE BACK OF THE CAR.



WHO THE HECK IS THIS GUY, ANYWAY? WHY DID HE TRY TO MUSS ME UP? WELL, ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO DO A LITTLE SNOOPING!



THE YOUNG FOOL! I KNEW HE WAS ON THE BACK OF MY CAR ALL ALONG, WELL HIS FOLLOWING ME SUITED MY PLANS PERFECTLY! NOW, I'LL JUST WAIT FOR HIM AND----



... WELCOME HIM WITH THIS!

OOO!



NOW YOU ARE GOING ON A LITTLE TRIP, MY YOUNG FRIEND - A TRIP INTO TIME AND SPACE - TO A LAND FROM WHICH YOU SHALL NEVER RETURN!



I HAVE PLANNED THIS FOR A LONG TIME!... FIRST YOU, THEN THE WIZARD! HE'LL BE ALONG SOON, AND I'LL SEND HIM AFTER YOU! YES, HEE, HEE, I PROMISE YOU THAT!



SEALING THE CYLINDER IN WHICH HE HAS PLACED ROY THE CRAZED SCIENTIST JERKS A LEVER, AND GREAT TURBINES ROAR INTO ACTION!



UNTIL, WITH A BLINDING FLASH - THE SPACE SHIP CONTAINING ROY, STREAKS OFF -

GONE, TO A LAND FROM WHICH HE'LL NEVER RETURN... NEVER RETURN!



SUDDENLY, FROM OUT OF THE STREET COMES THE MIGHTY FIGURE OF THE WIZARD!

EXPECTING ME, DR. DOOM?



I FOLLOWED ROY HERE... NOW -



TALK, YOU MAD FOOL - WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HIM?



THE WIZARD!



(ULP) I... I'LL TELL - I'VE SENT HIM BACK INTO TIME - IN MY SPACE SHIP.



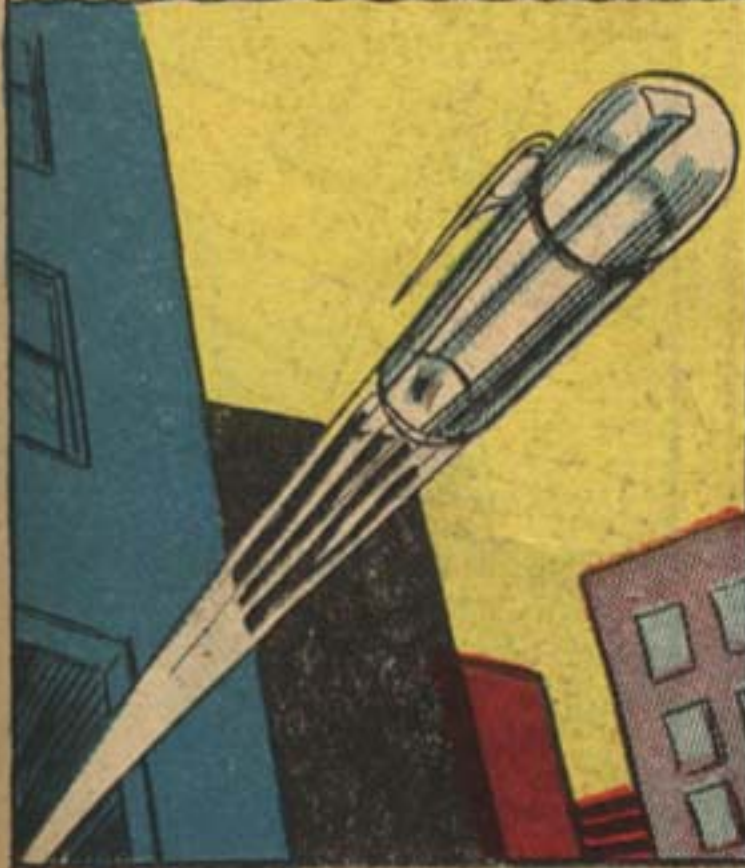
THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN GET TO HIM IS TO GO AFTER HIM IN THIS SPACE SHIP.

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!



PERFECT! PERFECT! I'VE RID MYSELF FOREVER OF THE ONLY TWO WHO COULD HAVE INTERFERED WITH ME!

UP, UP, SHOOTS THE TIME-CYLINDER CARRYING THE WIZARD TOWARD THE MOST BIZARRE ADVENTURE OF HIS LIFE.



THE SHIP BEARING ROY LANDS ON THE SOIL OF A SCORCHED, STRANGE LAND....



FROM THE HUGE CASTLES IN THE DISTANCE EMERGE A HORDE OF GIANTS.



JARRED INTO CONSCIOUSNESS BY THE SHOCK OF THE LANDING, ROY OPENS THE CYLINDER TO FIND -

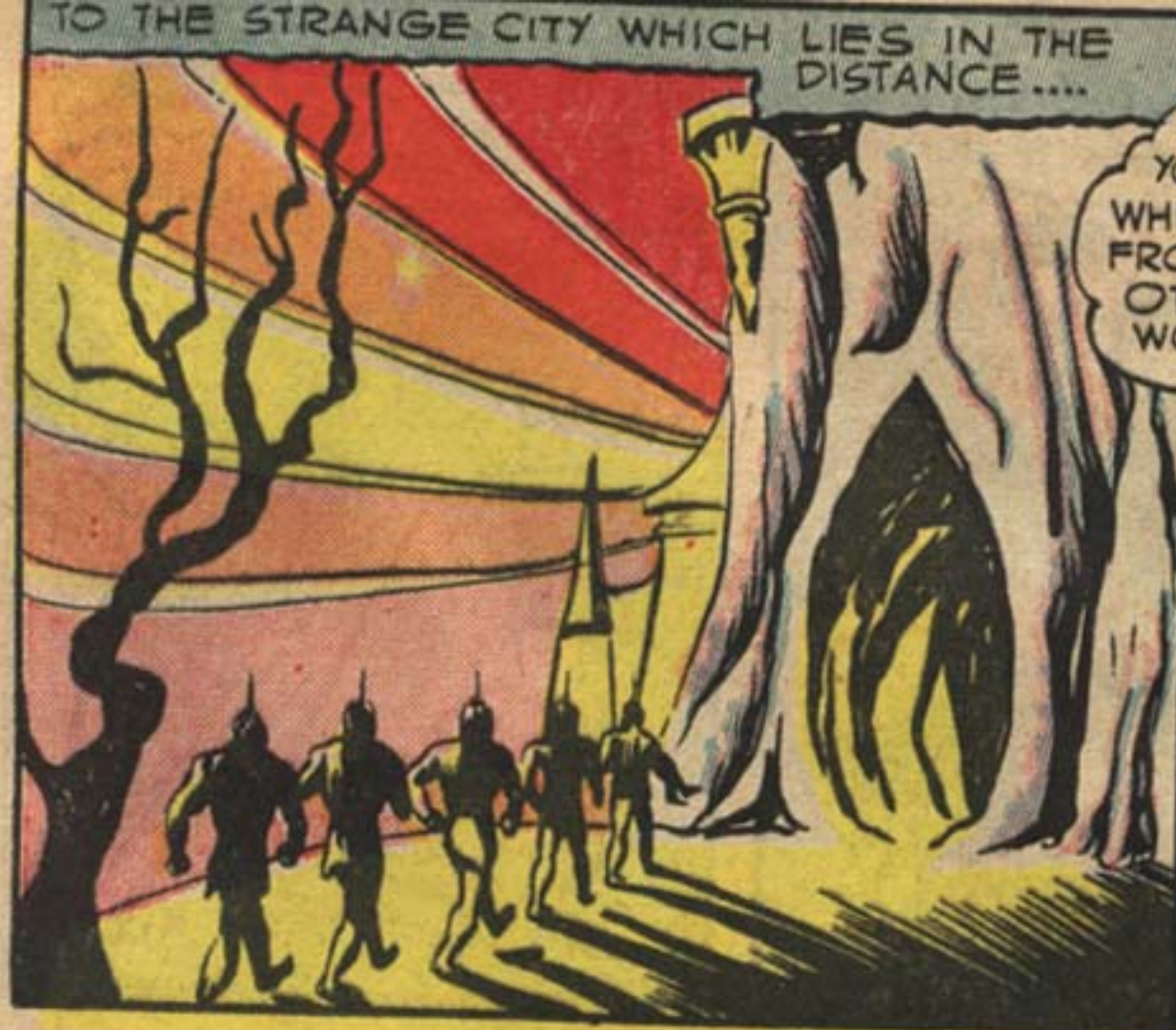


JUMPIN' JUPITER! WHERE DID THESE HORNED GOONS COME FROM?

DESPITE HIS STRUGGLES, ROY IS BORNE OFF BY THE WEIRD, SILENT CREATURES!



LET ME GO, YOU!



FASTER THAN LIGHT - THE WIZARD STREAKS TO ROY'S RESCUE...



AND RUNS INTO A GIANT ROBOT GUARDING THE ENTRANCE TO THE CITY.



GREAT SCOT! WHERE DID THIS COME FROM?

UNDAUNTED, THE WIZARD ATTACKS -



I'D BETTER CUT YOU DOWN TO MY SIZE!

BUT THE ANTENNA OF THE FALLING GIANT FLASHES A SIGNAL

QUICKLY - ANOTHER INVADER - SEIZE HIM AND BRING HIM HERE!



YOU'RE THROUGH, MISTER - THAT MUST BE THE WIZARD!

THE WIZARD, EH - HEH, HEH! HE'LL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF... AND SO WILL YOU - RIGHT NOW. COME ALONG! RESISTANCE IS USELESS, AS YOU WELL KNOW!



MEANWHILE, AS THE WIZARD STANDS OVER HIS FALLEN Oponent...



GOOD LORD, MORE OF THESE GIANTS!

REALIZING THAT DELAY MIGHT BE FATAL FOR ROY, THE WIZARD STREAKS UPWARD!

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU OVER-SIZED GENTLEMEN.



AND RUNS INTO MORE TROUBLE!

JUPITER! EVERY PLACE I TURN, MORE OF THESE REFUGEES FROM A NIGHTMARE BOB UP!



SWIFTLY THE WIZARD ATTACKS - AS THE BRAINLESS GIANTS LUMBER STUPIDLY AT HIM!

WONDER WHAT MAKES YOU FELLOWS TICK?



THOSE ANTENNAE MUST CONTROL THEM - OH-OH, MORE OF THEM!



AGAIN THE WIZARD EVADES THE ROBOTS WITH AN AMAZING SLIDE! SPYING THE CONTROL BOARD.....



I WAS RIGHT - RADIO CONTROL!

... RIPS IT APART - AND THE GIANTS TOPPLE THEIR MECHANISMS DEAD!



THAT TAKES CARE OF YOU BIG FELLOWS!



NOW TO GET TO ROY!

THEN AS THE INSANE RULER IS ABOUT TO DEAL THE SUPERBOY THE DEATH-STROKE.....



THE WIZARD!

YOU'LL JOIN THE BOY IN DEATH! THIS IS MY LAND - MINE! DO YOU HEAR?



NOT FOR LONG, MISTER!



HMM! QUITE A PITCHER AREN'T YOU?



NOW LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT CATCHING!



THIS IS YOUR END, WIZARD!



NOT THAT EASY -

OOMPH!



I DON'T NEED WEAPONS, YOU MADMAN!



QUICKLY THE WIZARD RUNS TO ROY!

ROY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



RISING, THE ROBOT RULER REACHES FOR A LEVER -

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU TWO!



A TRAP DOOR OPENS BENEATH THE WIZARD AND ROY!

HA! SURPRISED, EH? YOU'LL BE EVEN MORE SURPRISED AT WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU-MY ROCKING CHAMBER! FAREWELL, EARTH CREATURES.



THEY PLUMMET INTO A STEEL CHAMBER WHICH FLINGS THEM BACK AND FORTH, LIKE ANIMATED PUPPETS!

CAN'T GET O-OUT OF TH-THE ROY!

WIZARD C-CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING?

FASTER AND FASTER,
THE CHAMBER ROCKS!

W...W...W...
WIZARD OOMPH!

IF... IF... ONLY... TH...
THIS... TH... THING
WOULD B... BE...
STILL F... FOR A
SECOND...
OOPH!



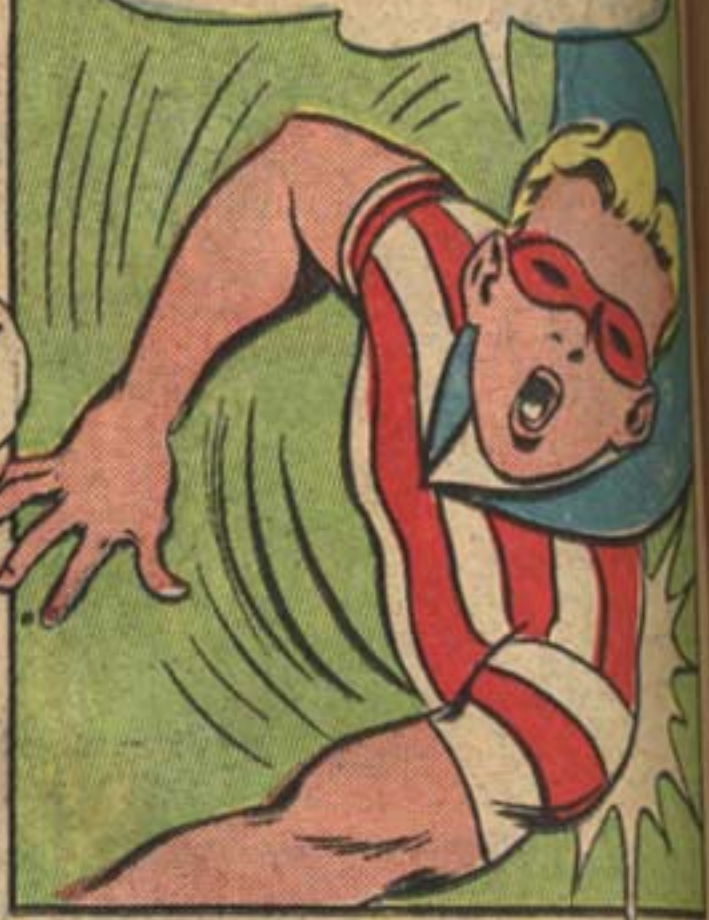
UNTIL —

I... CAN'T STAND...
TH... TH... THIS ANY-
M... MORE! G...
GOODBYE... W...
WIZARD!

D... DON'T... DON'T
GIVE UP Y... YET R... ROY!
M... MUSTN'T TALK...
LIKE THAT... S... SNAP
OUT OF IT!
SNAP OUT
OF IT!

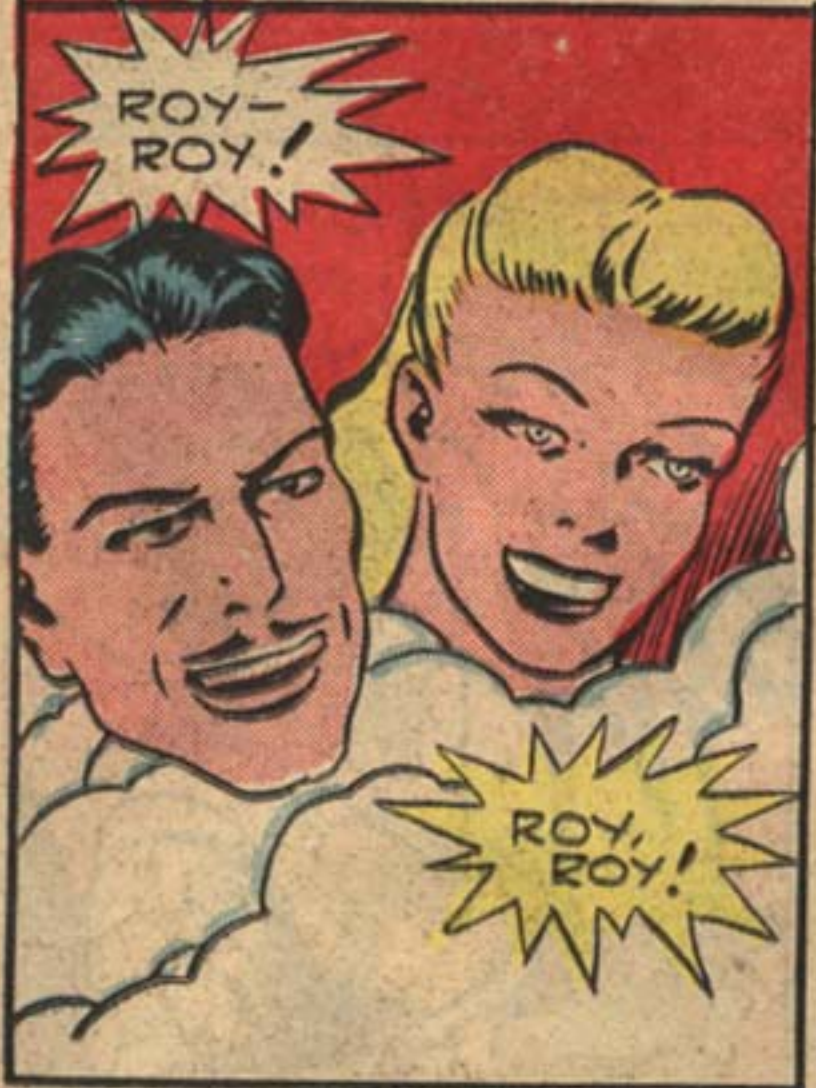


THERE'S JANE -
WHERE - DID
SHE - COME FROM?



ROY -
ROY!

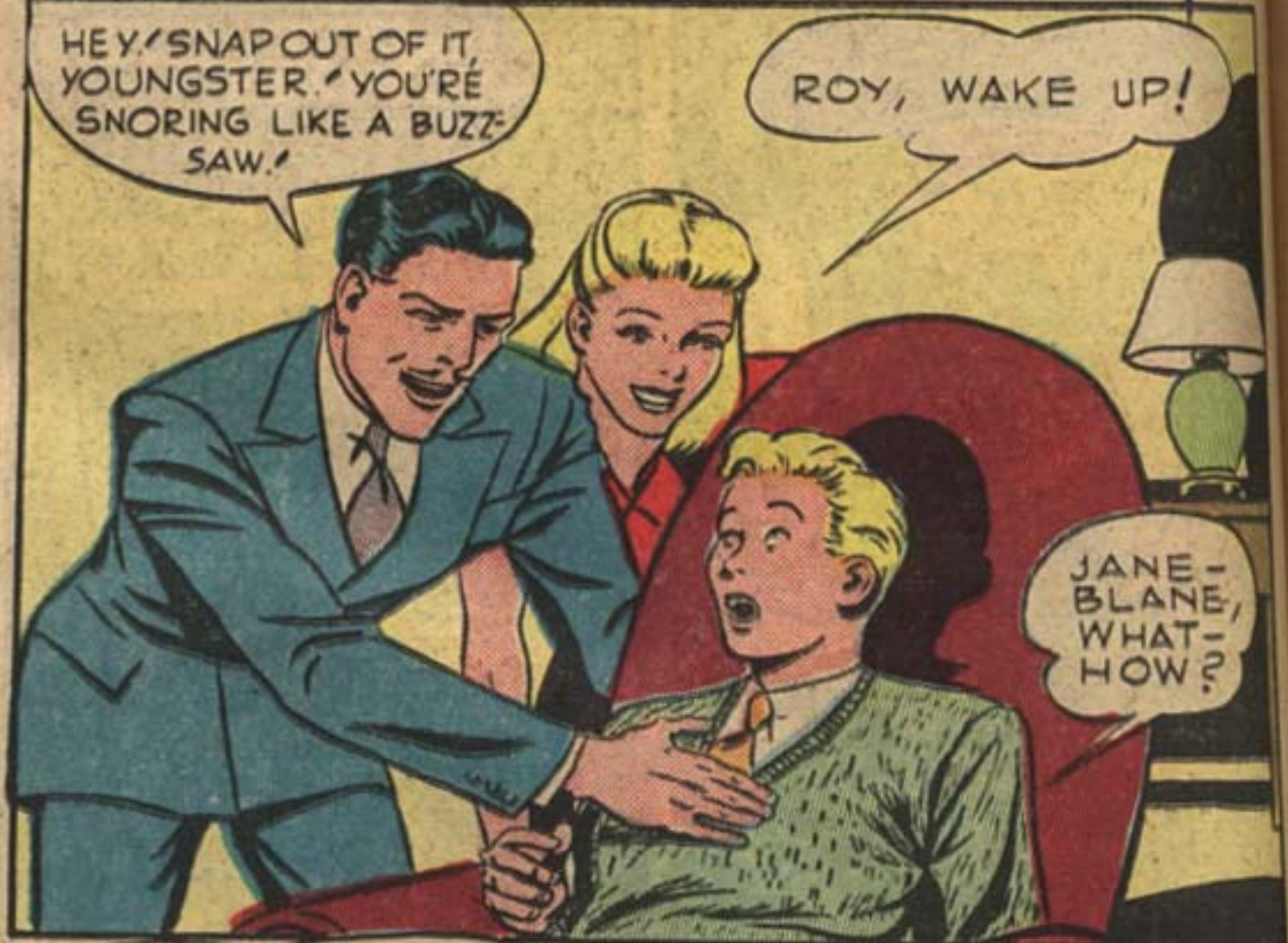
ROY,
ROY!



HEY! SNAP OUT OF IT,
YOUNGSTER. YOU'RE
SNORING LIKE A BUZZ-
SAW!

ROY, WAKE UP!

JANE -
BLANE,
WHAT -
HOW?



DID YOU GET HIM -
I MEAN DR DOOME?
AND WHERE ARE
THE GIANTS?

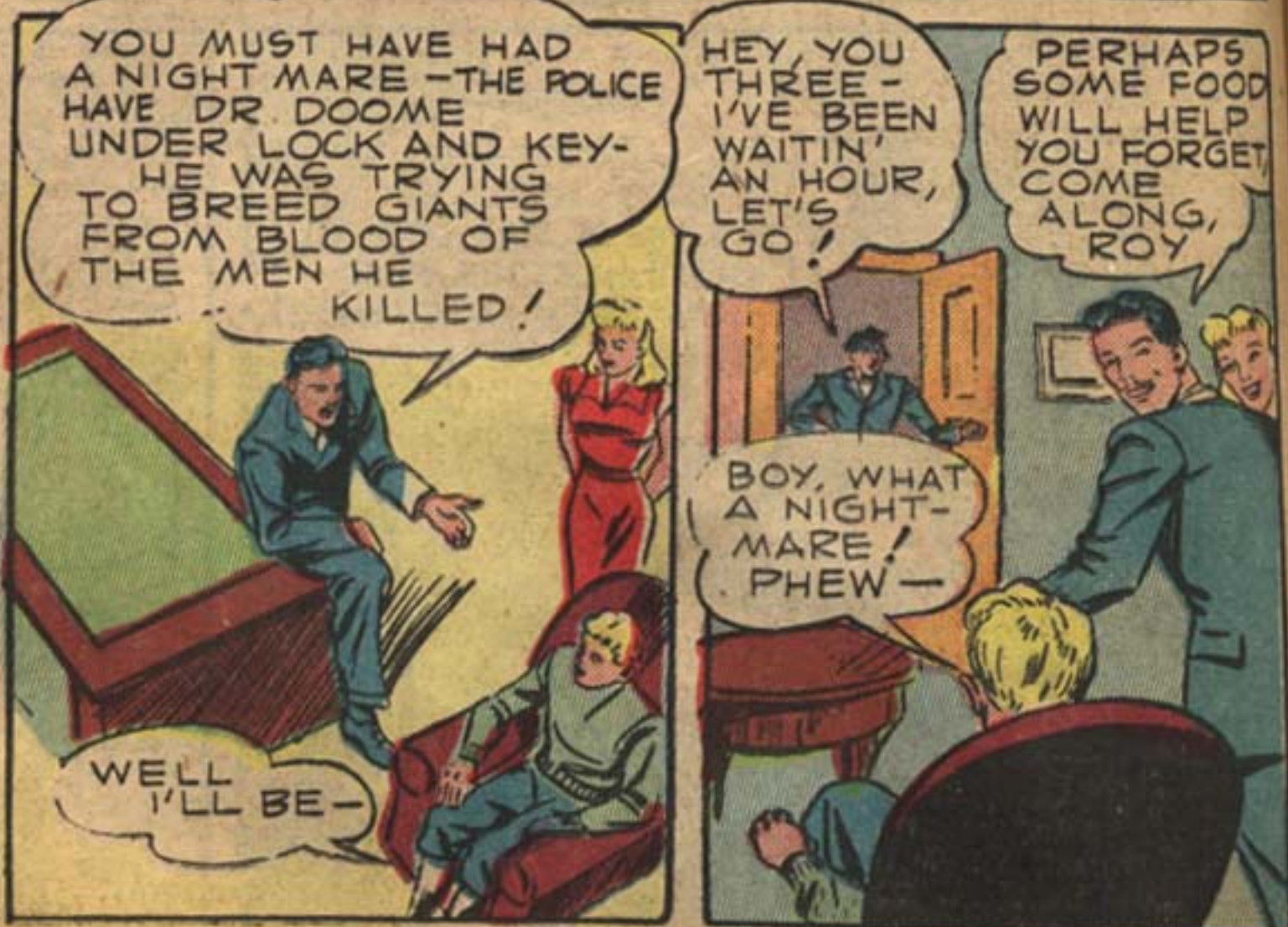
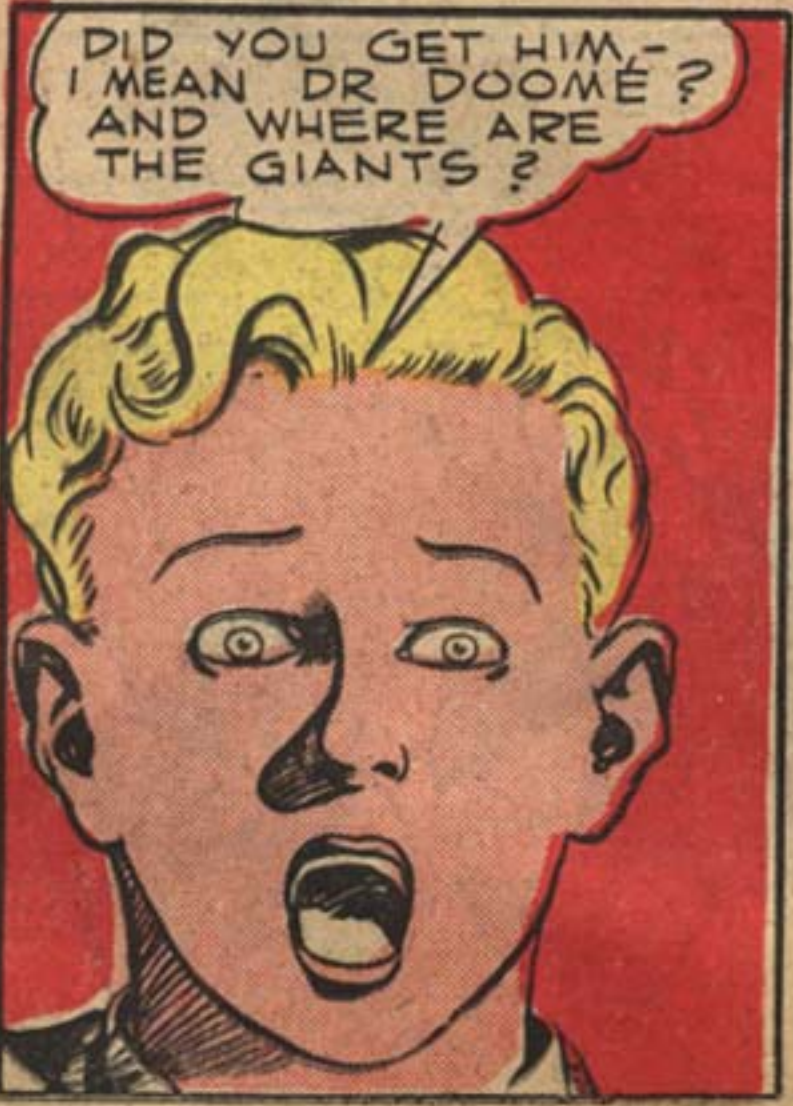
YOU MUST HAVE HAD
A NIGHT MARE - THE POLICE
HAVE DR DOOME
UNDER LOCK AND KEY -
HE WAS TRYING
TO BREED GIANTS
FROM BLOOD OF
THE MEN HE
KILLED!

HEY, YOU
THREE -
I'VE BEEN
WAITIN'
AN HOUR,
LET'S
GO!

PERHAPS
SOME FOOD
WILL HELP
YOU FORGET
COME
ALONG,
ROY

BOY, WHAT
A NIGHT-
MARE!
PHEW -

WELL
I'LL BE -



Fran FRAZER



AN ENGLISH BATTLESHIP CRUISING BY THE BELEAGUERED CITY OF TOBRUK SIGHTS AN ITALIAN DESTROYER, AND....

IN THE CROW'S NEST OF THE ENGLISH SHIP....

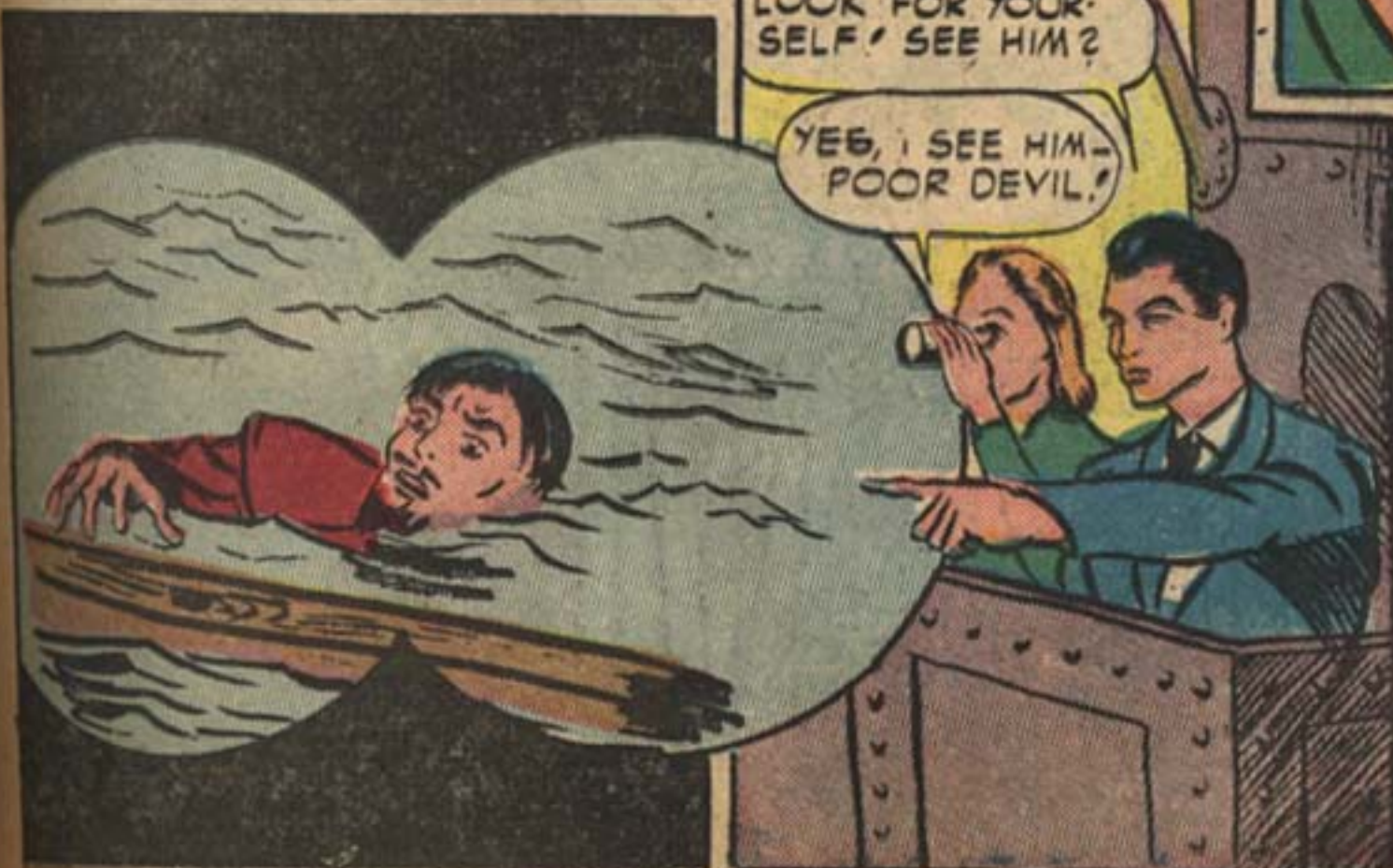
WHAT DO YOU SEE, HAL?

ONE OF THE SURVIVORS STRUGGLING IN THE WATERS, FRAN!



LOOK FOR YOURSELF! SEE HIM?

YES, I SEE HIM - POOR DEVIL!



NOBODY ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE SPOTTED HIM YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM HAL!

ARE YOU NUTS? WHO'S GONNA SAVE ME?





HAL ARGUES WITH FRAN FOR AS LONG AS TEN SECONDS, AND THEN....

WHAT'S THE USE? I CAN'T WIN! HERE GOES!



MAN OVERBOARD, CAPTAIN!

WHAT?!

HELP.. GLUB

STEADY, MISTER.. I'M COMING!



GRACIAS SIGNOR (GASP).. BUT IT'S.. A NO USE. I'M.. A GONNA DIE ANYHOW! SAVE.. A YOURSELF!... LISTEN CLOSE. WANT.. A TELL YOU SOMETHING!

I'M LISTENING. WHAT IS IT?



THE BATTLE-SHIP STEAMS TOWARD HAL...

HE'S DEAD! AND IF THEY DON'T HAUL ME OUT SOON I'LL JOIN HIM!



YOU NEWS-PAPER REPORTERS ARE QUEER ALL RIGHT! WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR, A FISH STORY?

FUNNY! VERY FUNNY!



.. AND SO, CAPTAIN, THE ITALIAN OFFICER, OUT OF GRATITUDE TOLD ME THAT GERMAN SUBMARINES WERE LYING AWAIT IN TOBRUK HARBOR FOR A BIG ENGLISH CONVOY!

NONSENSE! HE WAS JUST TRYING TO TRICK US! A FLY COULDN'T SLIP PAST OUR PATROL. LET ALONE A SUB-MARINE!



HAL, DO YOU THINK THERE WAS ANYTHING TO THAT ITALIAN'S STORY?

I'M NOT SURE ANYMORE. (KACHOO)



YOU KNOW, HAL, THOSE ITALIANS DON'T LIKE THE GERMANS ANY TOO WELL. IT'S JUST POSSIBLE HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH. IT'S WORTH LOOKING INTO. WHAT A SWELL STORY IT WOULD MAKE IF IT WERE SO!

THAT NIGHT...

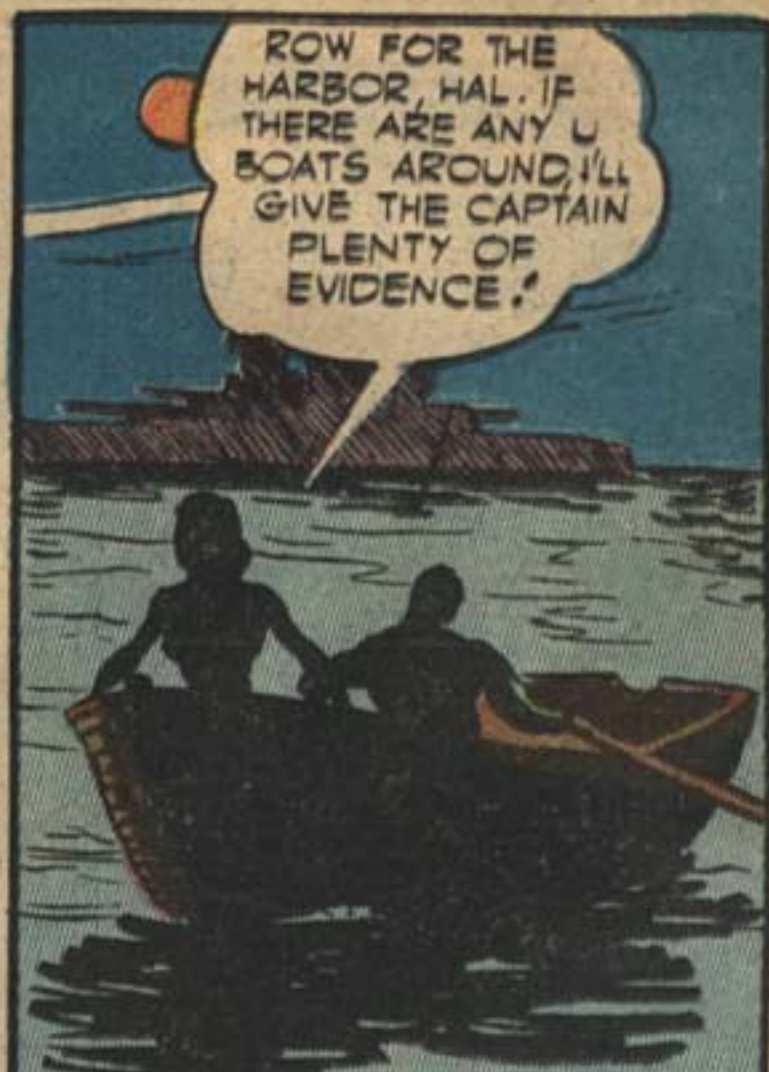


YOU GET ALL THE IDEAS... AND I TAKE ALL THE CHANCES! WHY ARE WE SWIPING THIS DIVING EQUIPMENT?

YOU'LL SOON SEE!



STEALTHILY, FRAN AND HAL LOWER THEMSELVES IN A LIFEBOAT....



ROW FOR THE HARBOR, HAL. IF THERE ARE ANY U BOATS AROUND, I'LL GIVE THE CAPTAIN PLENTY OF EVIDENCE!



I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP YOUR SLEEVE. BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE!

STOP HERE, HAL! NOW HAND ME THAT DIVING EQUIPMENT.



I'M GOING TO SCOUT AROUND ON THE OCEAN FLOOR... AND IF I SEE ANY SUBS, I'M GOING TO SNAP PICS OF THEM!



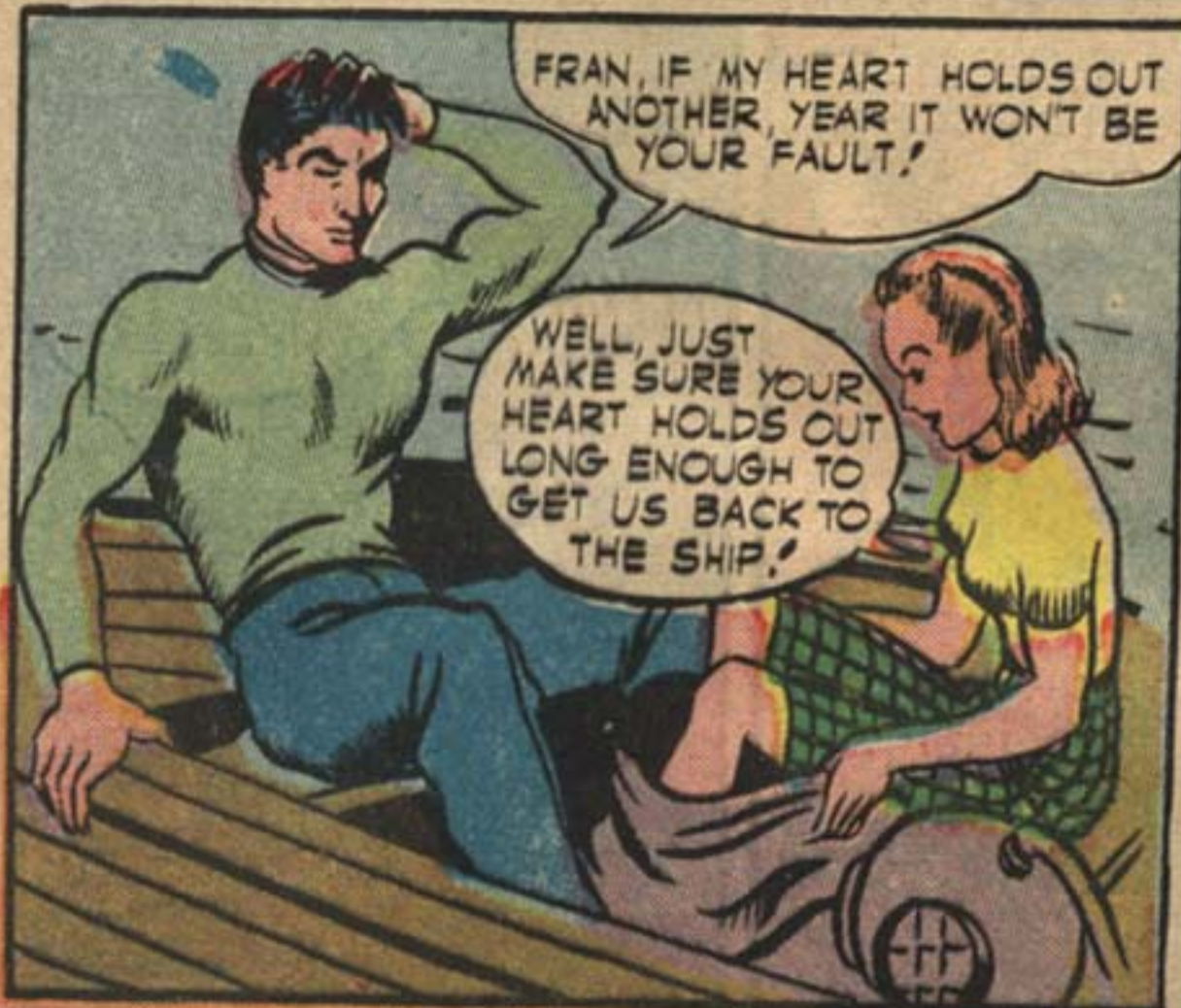
HOLY CATS! OF ALL THE SCREW-BALL STUNTS, THIS COPS THE CAKE! FRAN, BE CAREFUL, WILL YA PLEASE?



GOOD LORD! THE ITALIAN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AFTER ALL!



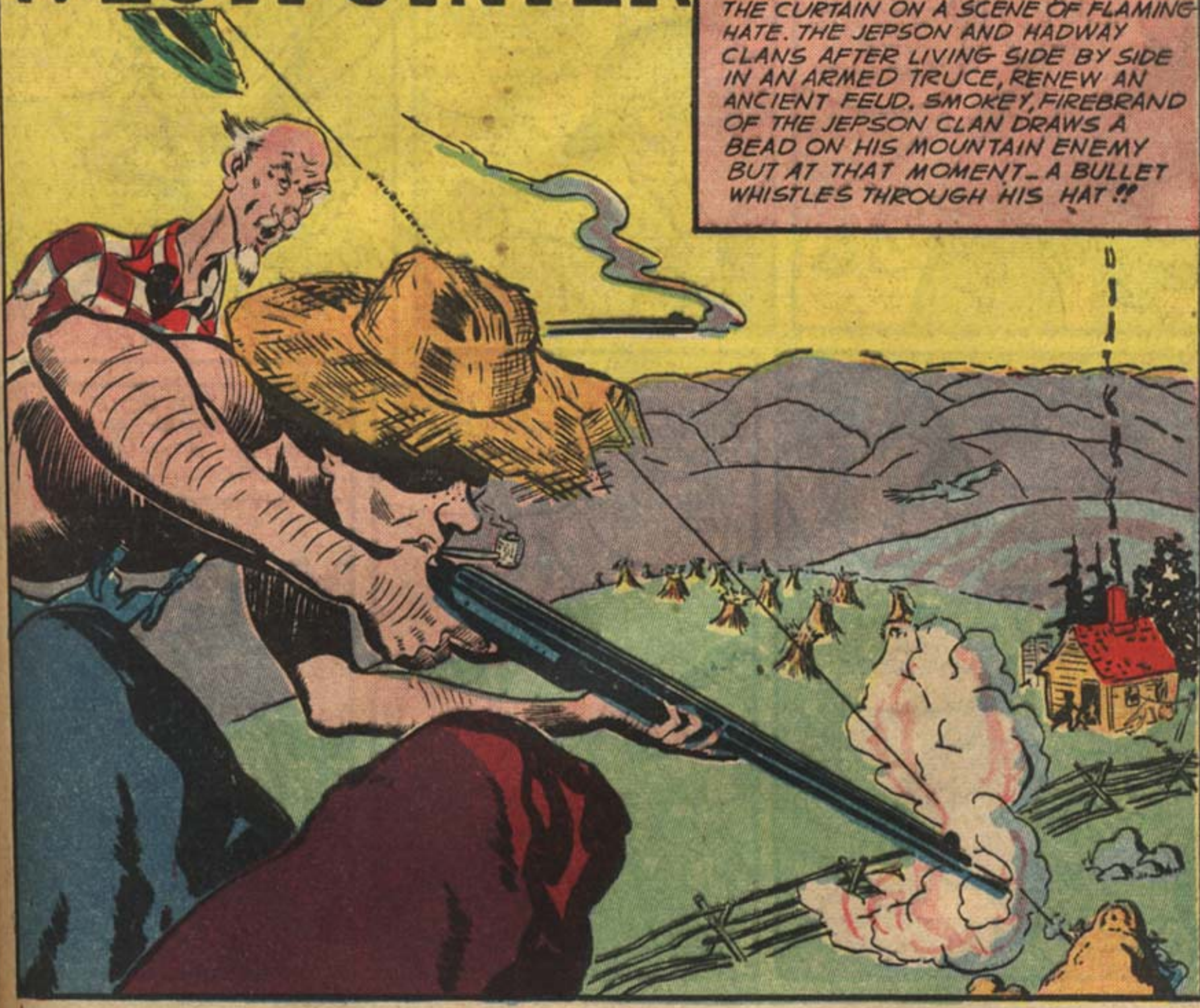
SUDDENLY, A DREAD CREATURE OF THE SEAS HURTTLES TOWARD FRAN—A SWORDFISH!



KEITH KORNELL

WEST POINTER

DAWN BREAKS OVER THE MOUNTAINS OF TENNESSEE, LIFTING THE CURTAIN ON A SCENE OF FLAMING HATE. THE JEPSON AND HADWAY CLANS AFTER LIVING SIDE BY SIDE IN AN ARMED TRUCE, RENEW AN ANCIENT FEUD. SMOKEY, FIREBRAND OF THE JEPSON CLAN DRAWS A BEAD ON HIS MOUNTAIN ENEMY BUT AT THAT MOMENT—A BULLET WHISTLES THROUGH HIS HAT!!



LIEUTENANT KEITH KORNELL ON MANEUVERS IS STARTLED BY WILD FLYING BULLETS.



WHO'S SHOOTING AT US, SIR?



SUMPIN'S UP, PAPPY—THEM HADWAYS HAS STOPPED SHOOTIN'! KEEP YOUR EYE PEEL-ED!





AS THE PUZZLED JEPSONS AWAIT THE NEXT MOVE, WACKY JEPSON EXECUTES A BOLD ATTACK!

LOOK, POP, IT'S SMOKEY!



WACKY ALIGNS SMOKEY ONTO HIS SIGHTS AND SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER!

WELL, I'LL BE! THESE GUYS MEAN BUSINESS!



HEY, WOT THE -

NOT SO FAST, NEIGHBOR!



TO PAPPY JEPSON, ANY STRANGER IS AN ENEMY, SO HE TAKES AIM AT KORNELL!

HEY, YOU GUYS! STOP THIS GANGWAR!

GEE, SOJERS!

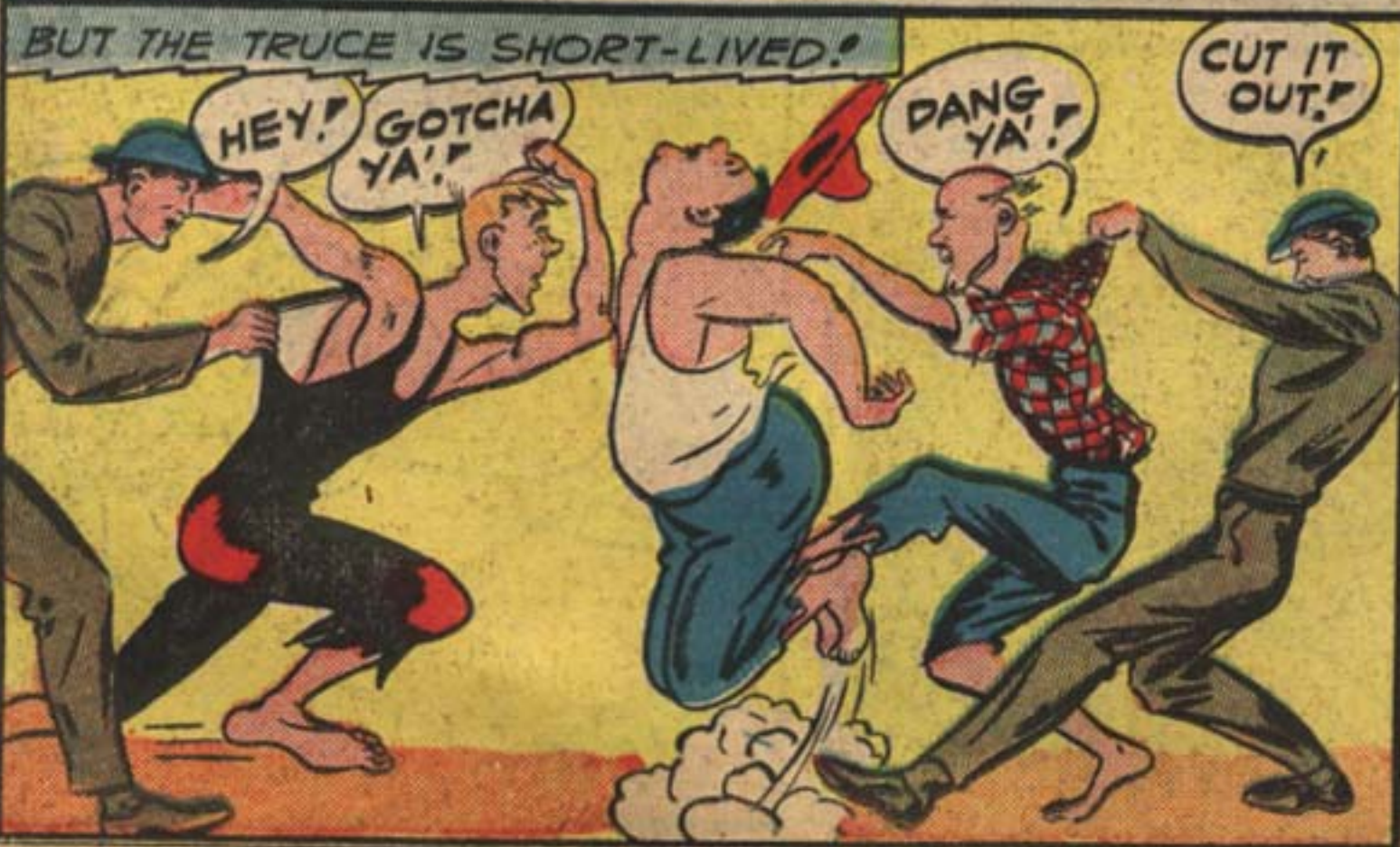


CONSARN YE' SON, DON'T INTERFERE WITH MY SHOOTIN'!

CALM DOWN, PAPPY - THEM'S SOJERS. THEY AIN'T HADWAYS.



PLAYING THE ROLE OF PEACEMAKER, KORNELL ARRANGES A TRUCE



BUT THE TRUCE IS SHORT-LIVED!

HEY!

GOTCHA YA!

DANG YA!

CUT IT OUT!



HATE TO DO THIS, NEIGHBOR, BUT I LOVE PEACE!



GOSH, GENERAL, YOU SHORE KIN FIGHT!

THAT'S MY PROFESSION - IF YOU MEN WERE IN THE ARMY, YOU'D LEARN DISCIPLINE!



THE ARMY? SAY IF I WUZ A SOJER, WOULD I GET A PURTY GUN LIKE THAT?

OF COURSE!



DANG YE', SMOKY - NO JEPSON KIN OUTDO ME! I WANT TO BE IN THE ARMY, TOO!

SMOKEY AND WACKY FILL OUT ENLISTMENT PAPERS...



THAT NIGHT, TWO UNGAINLY CREATURES FOLLOW THE SOLDIERS TO CAMP...

HEIGH HO, HEIGH HO!

OFF TO CAMP WE GO!



GEE, IF I COULD READ, I'D KNOW WHAT I WUZ WRITIN'!

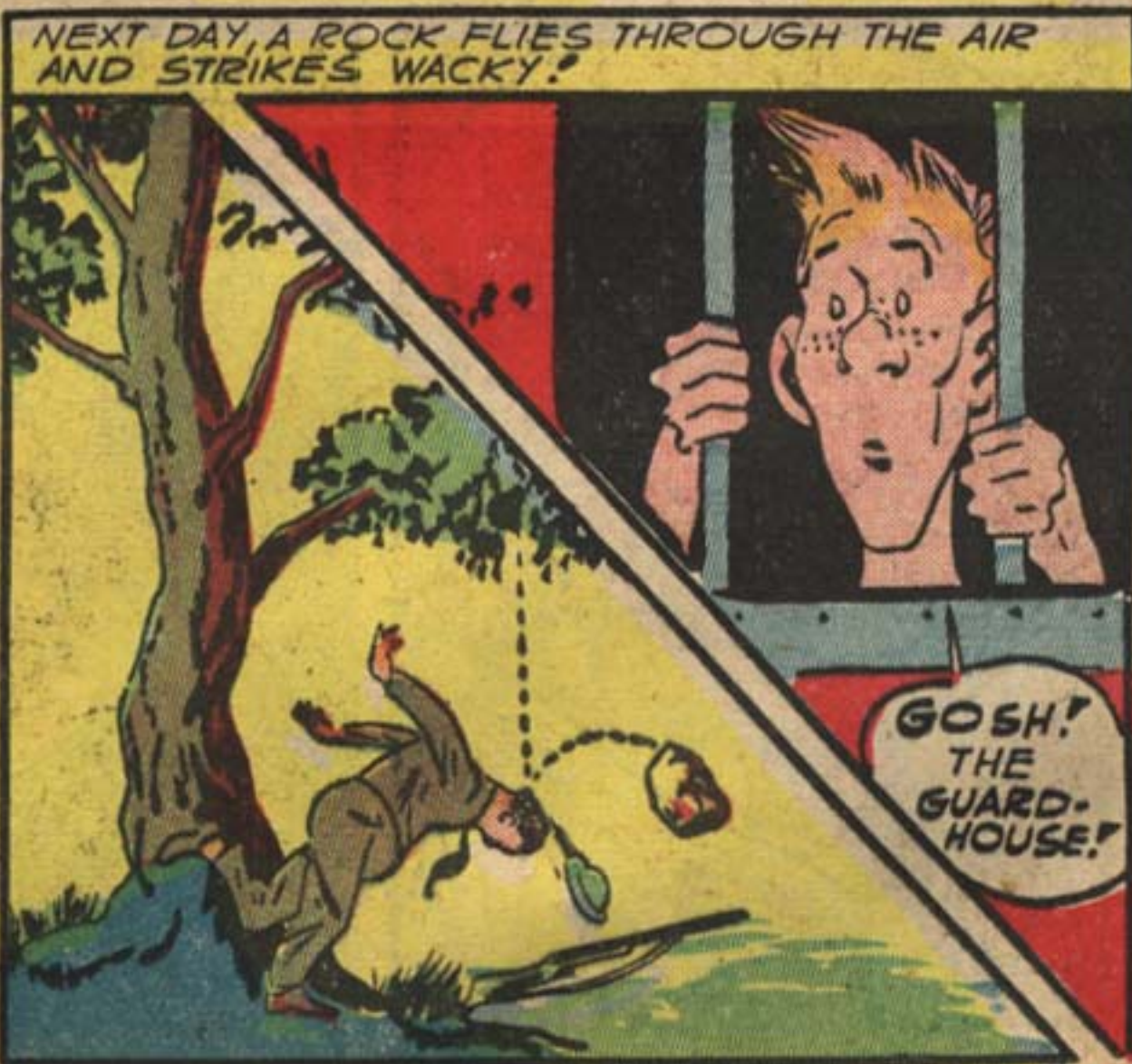
HOW DO YOU MAKE AN "X"?



PEACE REIGNS BUT NOT FOR LONG. SUD- DENLY, THE FEUD BREAKS OUT ANEW.

GOSH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE WACKY!

MISSED HIM - DARNIT!



NEXT DAY, A ROCK FLIES THROUGH THE AIR AND STRIKES WACKY!

GOSH! THE GUARD- HOUSE!

THAT EVENING AS KORNEILL CHATS WITH HIS BROTHER OFFICER, LIEUT. CRANE....

YOU SAID IT, CRANE, THOSE HILLBILLIES ARE GREAT CHARACTERS!

YEH, YOU CAN HAVE 'EM.

LISTEN TO THAT RACKET-

SOUNDS LIKE YOUR PETS ARE ON THE PROWL AGAIN!



DANG YA, SMOKEY, THAT'S UNFAIR FIGHTIN'!



HERE'S A PEACH PIE, WACKY! YOU LIKE PEACH!



ALL THAT WORK FOR NUTHIN'!



OH, OH, HELLO, LIEUTENANT! I WUZ JUST SHOWING WACKY WOT SWELL PIES THE COOK MAKES.



AS THE OFFICERS PART THE BRAWLERS, COLONEL HAWKINS ENTERS!

TENSHIN! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

GOTCHA!

MISSED YA!

YOU MEN FROM THE HILLS HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM EVER SINCE YOU ENTERED THE ARMY! I'M RECOMMENDING A DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE!





MY COMPLIMENTS, SIR, BUT THESE MEN NEED STRANGE DISCIPLINE - MAY I TAKE CHARGE OF THIS ONE?

VERY WELL, HE'S YOUR ORDERLY. HEAVEN HELP YOU!



YOU'RE MY PERSONAL SERVANT - SO THE FIRST FUNNY MOVE - AND OUT YOU GO!

NO, SIR - I MEAN, YES, SIR!



CLEAN THESE BOOTS AND STEP ON IT!

YES, SIR, LOOIE. I KNOW JEST THE THING FOR THEM BOOTS!



WHEN KORNELL RETURNS TO HIS TENT TO DRESS FOR RETREAT, HIS NOSE ITCHES WITH A STRANGE SCENT!

HOLY SMOKE, WHAT'S THAT I SMELL!



WHEW!... IS THAT YOU OR THE BOOTS?

IT'S BEAR GREASE! MY PAPPY ALWAYS USES IT ON BOOTS.



THE COLONEL WANTS TO SEE YOU, SIR.

AND THESE ARE MY ONLY BOOTS!



I LIKE LIEUTENANT KORNELL'S DASH AND BEARING - I'LL MAKE HIM MY PERSONAL AIDE!



AS THE "OLD MAN" STARTS TO ANNOUNCE THIS NEWS, HE DETECTS A HEAVY, WEIRD THARUMPH! I'VE ZODOR... CHANGED MY PLANS! LEAVE AT ONCE ON A SCOUTING MISSION!



22 MILES LATER..

GOSH, I WAS ONLY TRYIN' TO HELP!

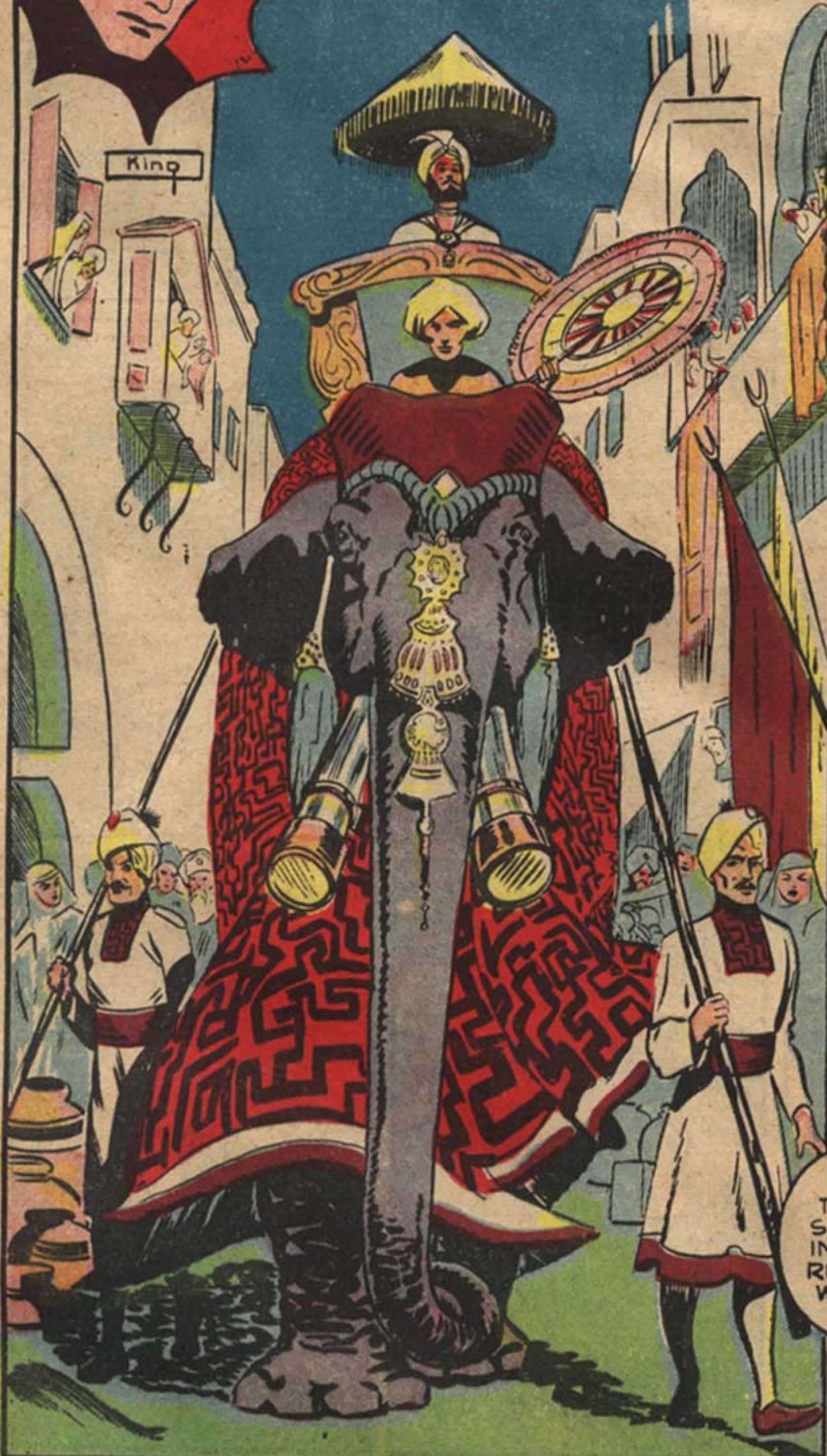
YEH, LUNKHEAD, YOU PUT ME RIGHT OUT OF A STAFF JOB! C'MON, RIGHT-LEFT!



the FIREFLY

King

INDIA, MOTHER OF MYSTERY, ROMANCE, RICHES AND POVERTY... ALL FOUR PASS IN ARRAY THROUGH THE STREETS OF DELHI. IT'S EMPIRE DAY WHEN PRINCES PARADE WITH PAUPERS.



HARLEY HUDSON CHATS WITH RAM SINGH, AN AGED FAKIR...



BELIEVE ME MY SON, AN EVIL SPELL HOVERS OVER DELHI - IT CARRIES DEATH AND TERROR FOR A MIGHTY SERVANT OF THE KING.

HMM.. THAT'S FUNNY, RAM. THAT PROCESSION ENTERING TOWN RIGHT AFTER WHAT YOU SAID.





THAT NIGHT AT THE VICE-ROY'S BALL...

ANNOUNCING THE MAHARAJAH OF BURTAH.

MAHARAJAH OF BURTAH. WHO IS HE?



FATHER, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D INVITED ROYALTY TONIGHT.

NEITHER DID I NANCY. LET'S GO OVER AND INTRODUCE OURSELVES.



GREETINGS FROM MY PEOPLE, OH MIGHTY MINION OF THE ENGLISH KING.

ER..AH...THANK YOU. AND MY RESPECTS TO YOU AND YOUR TRIBE.



IF I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO HONOR ME WITH YOUR PRESENCE TONIGHT, RAJAH, I WOULD HAVE... I SAY, WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION OVER THERE?



WHAT'S THE MATTER, JEEVES?

THIS BLIGHTER IS TRYING TO ENTER WITHOUT AN INVITATION, MISS NANCY.

WHY NANCY AND I ARE OLD FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?



HMM... LET MR... ER... THE GENTLEMAN IN, JEEVES.

YES, MISS NANCY.

SEE, FLUNKY! WHAT DID I TELL YOU?



AND NOW, JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY PRETENDING TO BE AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE? I NEVER SAW YOU BEFORE!

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF ME IN THE FUTURE. HUDSON IS MY NAME - HARLEY HUDSON.



SUDDENLY, THE BALL ROOM IS THROWN INTO INKY, TERRIFYING BLACKNESS.

KALI! KALI!

THEN, WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON AGAIN...

FATHER! MY FATHER! WHERE IS HE?
WHY, YOU'RE TREMBLING LIKE A LEAF! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

DIDN'T YOU HEAR THAT CRY? IT WAS THE CRY OF THE THUGGI, THE MURDER CULT... THEY'VE COME TO KILL MY FATHER. OH, PLEASE DO SOMETHING!

WHILE IN THE GARDEN, THE VICE-ROY SEARCHES FRANTICALLY FOR THE ONE WHO UTTERED THE CRY...



IT CAME FROM SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE!

AARGH

GOOD LORD! I'VE ARRIVED TOO LATE!

THE FIREFLY RUNS UP!

NOT SO FAST, SONNY!

OOOPH!



NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS YOUR SILKEN ROPE BUT IT'LL HOLD YOU FOR A WHILE!

FATHER! FATHER! EEEE! LOOK OVER THERE HE'S LYING ON THE GROUND!

EASY NOW!

HE.. HE'S DEAD, NANCY!

SHE'S FAINTED!

OOO!



THE FIREFLY CARRIES THE UNCONSCIOUS NANCY INTO THE HOUSE!...



THE FIREFLY!



YES, MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN THIS MYSTERY.

IT'S A HORRIBLE CURSE THE THUGS HAVE LEVELED AGAINST OUR FAMILY—IT BEGAN IN THE HILLS WHEN FATHER WAS A YOUNG OFFICER...



"THE THUGS, A BAND OF KILLERS RAN WILD, MURDERING, ROBBING—FATHER'S TROOP WAS SENT TO QUELL THEM..."



"AFTER A BITTER CAMPAIGN..."



"...THE CULT WAS BROKEN UP—THEIR LEADER SENTENCED TO DEATH..."



THE CURSE OF KALI ON YOU AND YOURS, CAPTAIN RHODES.

CARRY ON, SERGEANT.



BOOM



WITH A FRIGHTFUL ROAR, HE WAS BLOWN TO BITS! WE'VE ALWAYS LAUGHED AT THE CURSE—UNTIL TONIGHT.

I SEE—YES, IT IS SOMETHING TO FEAR.



FIREFLY'S PROPHETIC WORDS BEAR FRUIT—A HAND STRIKES—THE FIREFLY CRUMPLES!

UMPH!



OW, I WAS OUT LIKE A LIGHT. IF I CAN ONLY GET ON MY FEET!



LADY JANE - GONE!



THEY'VE TAKEN HER OUT THAT WINDOW - IT'S STILL AJAR!



THEY MIGHT JUST TRY TO KILL HER THE SAME WAY HER FATHER KILLED THE LEADER OF THE CULT!



AND I REMEMBER SEEING A CANNON JUST OUTSIDE THE GROUNDS WHEN I CAME IN!



YOU ARE BRAVE INFIDEL GIRL - WELL, SO WAS MY FATHER ON THIS SAME CANNON!

NO, NO. HELP HELP



SURPRISED, ARE YOU NOT - RAJAH OF BURTAH, THE THUGEE PRIEST. I KNEW MY DISGUISE WOULD FOOL YOUR POMPOUS, ROYALTY-LOVING FATHER!

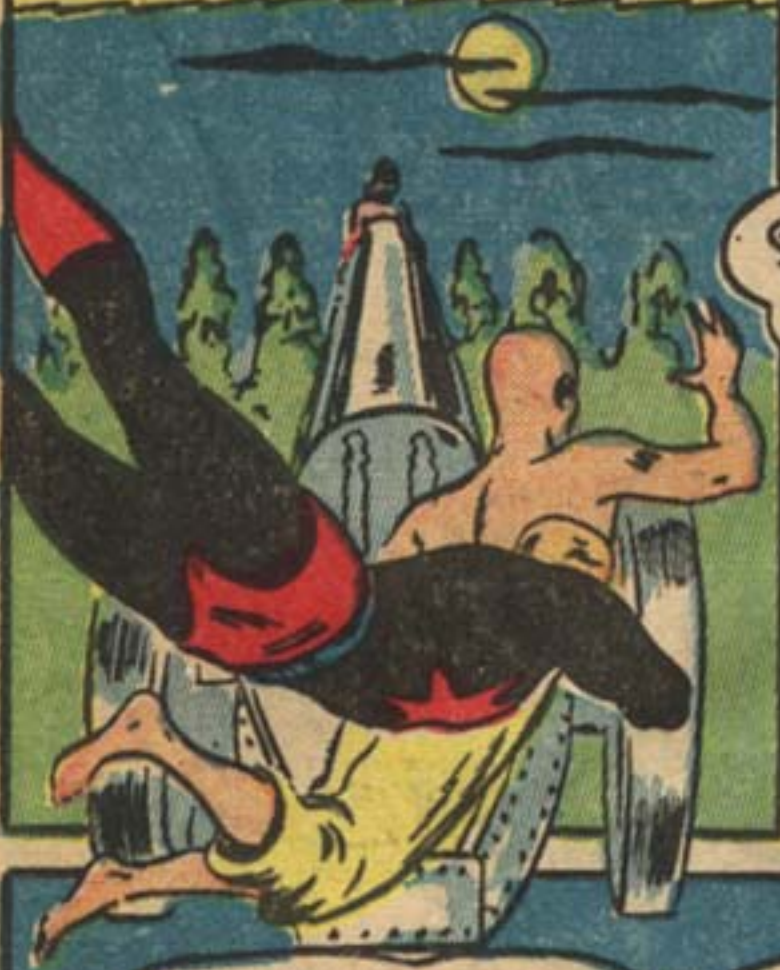


TENSED IN AGONY, LADY JANE AWAITS THE END - THE FULFILLMENT OF THE CURSE OF KALI ...

ON MY SIGNAL - FIRE!



BEFORE THE RAJAH'S ARM CAN FALL - A HUMAN BULLET HURTTLES INTO THE THUG AT THE LANYARD.



GOOD LORD! THEY'D STOP AT NOTHING.



QUICK, FIREFLY! THEY'RE GOING TO RUSH YOU!

AFTER THE INFIDEL DOG - HE SHALL BE NEXT!



SCUM OF THE HILLS, CHARGE HIM! KILL HIM! HE IS ONLY ONE MAN!

BUT, SACRED ONE, HE WILL BLOW US UP WITH THE CANNON!



FOLLOW ME! WE WILL RUSH HIM BEFORE HE CAN DISCHARGE IT!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!... I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT YOU'RE BEGGING FOR IT... HOLD YOUR EARS, NANCY!



OOO! HOW HORRIBLE! I CAN'T LOOK!

IT'S BETTER YOU DON'T!... THEY'RE GONE, AND THEIR CURSE WITH THEM!... WELL, INDIA'S A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN WITHOUT THEIR KIND!

YOU'RE GOING, TOO, FIREFLY... OUT OF MY LIFE.

YES, I MUST - INDIA'S MOON IS TOO ROMANTIC TO SUIT ME!

GOOD-BYE!



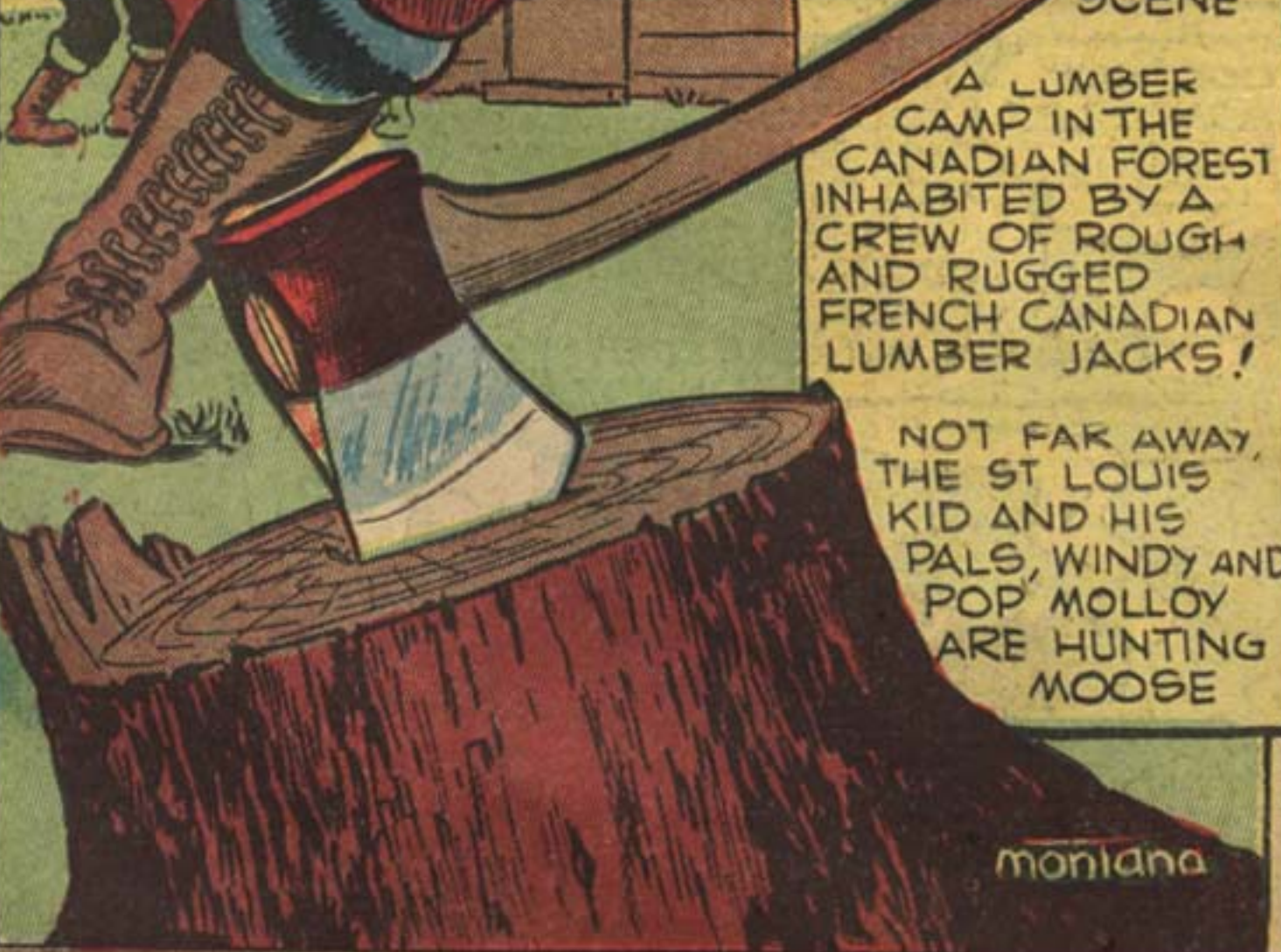
The ST. LOUIS KID



PARBLEU!
BATISSE
IS MAK
BIG NOISE
AGAIN!

OUI!
EES WAN
BAD MAN!

NO WAN CAN
LICK BATISSE!
THE STRONGEST
MAN IN ZE
WHOLE
NORTH!



SCENE

A LUMBER
CAMP IN THE
CANADIAN FOREST
INHABITED BY A
CREW OF ROUGH
AND RUGGED
FRENCH CANADIAN
LUMBER JACKS!

NOT FAR AWAY,
THE ST LOUIS
KID AND HIS
PALS, WINDY AND
POP MOLLOY
ARE HUNTING
MOOSE

montana



PSST! POP!
PSST! DON'T
GET SO FAR
AHEAD!

DOGGONE
JIM, WE
AINT SEEN
NO MOOSE
ALL DAY!

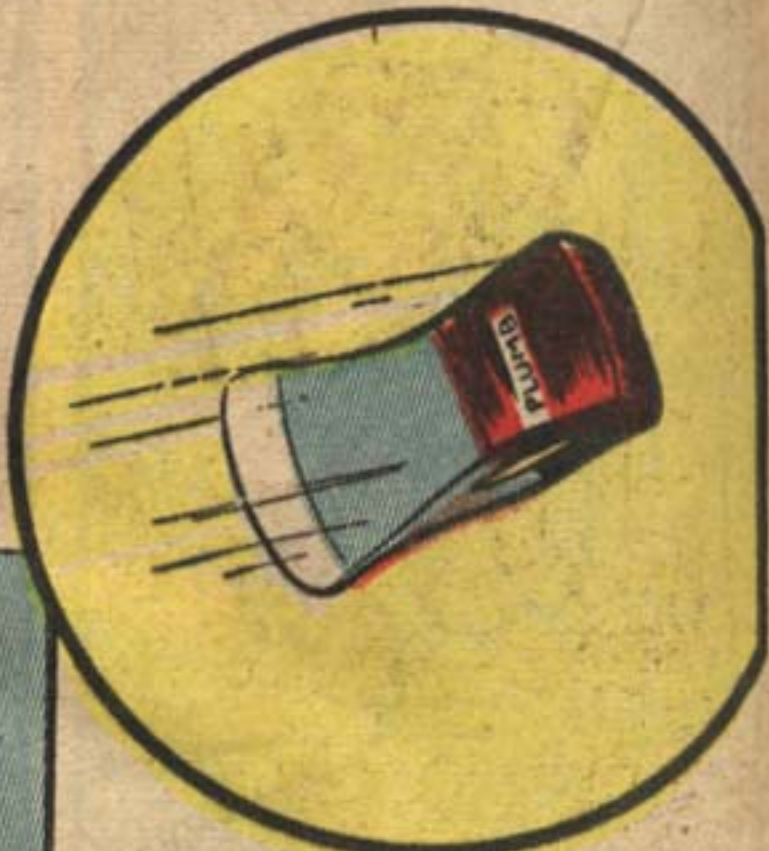


STAND BACK BOYS,
AND I'LL SHOW YOU
HOW I USED TO
FELL A PINE IN
TEN STROKES IN
ALASKA-BACK
IN '97!

EH,
FRANCOIS!
PASS ZEE
ROLLS, VOICI
LA BALONEY!



BUT AS POP SWINGS
MIGHTILY-- THE AXE-
HEAD FLYS OFF!



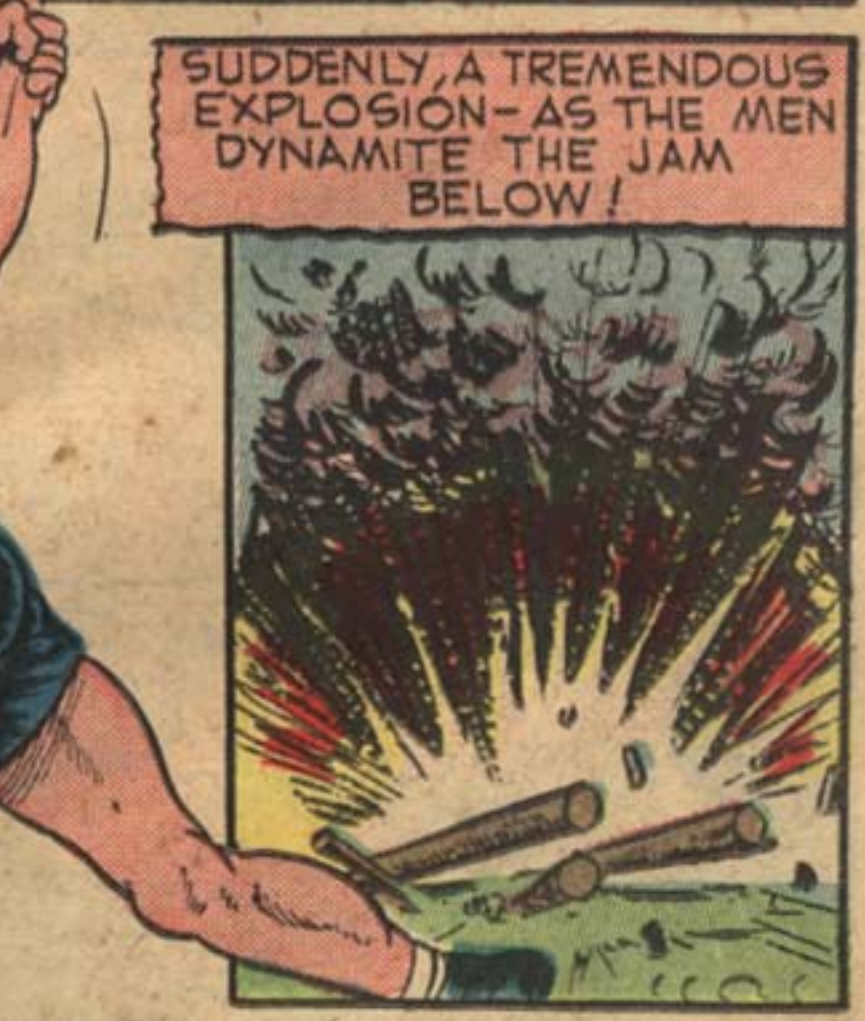
A-A-A HE
WON'T DROWN
HE'S TOO
FULL OF
AIR!



YOU TRY TO KEEL BATISSE FIRST WIZ ZEE BULLET - ZEN WIZ ZEE AXE ! NOW BATISSE KEEL YOU ! YOU SKONK !

MON DIEU ! JEEM DON'T GO ON JAM ! ZEE MEN ZEE DYNAMITE TO LOOSEN IT !

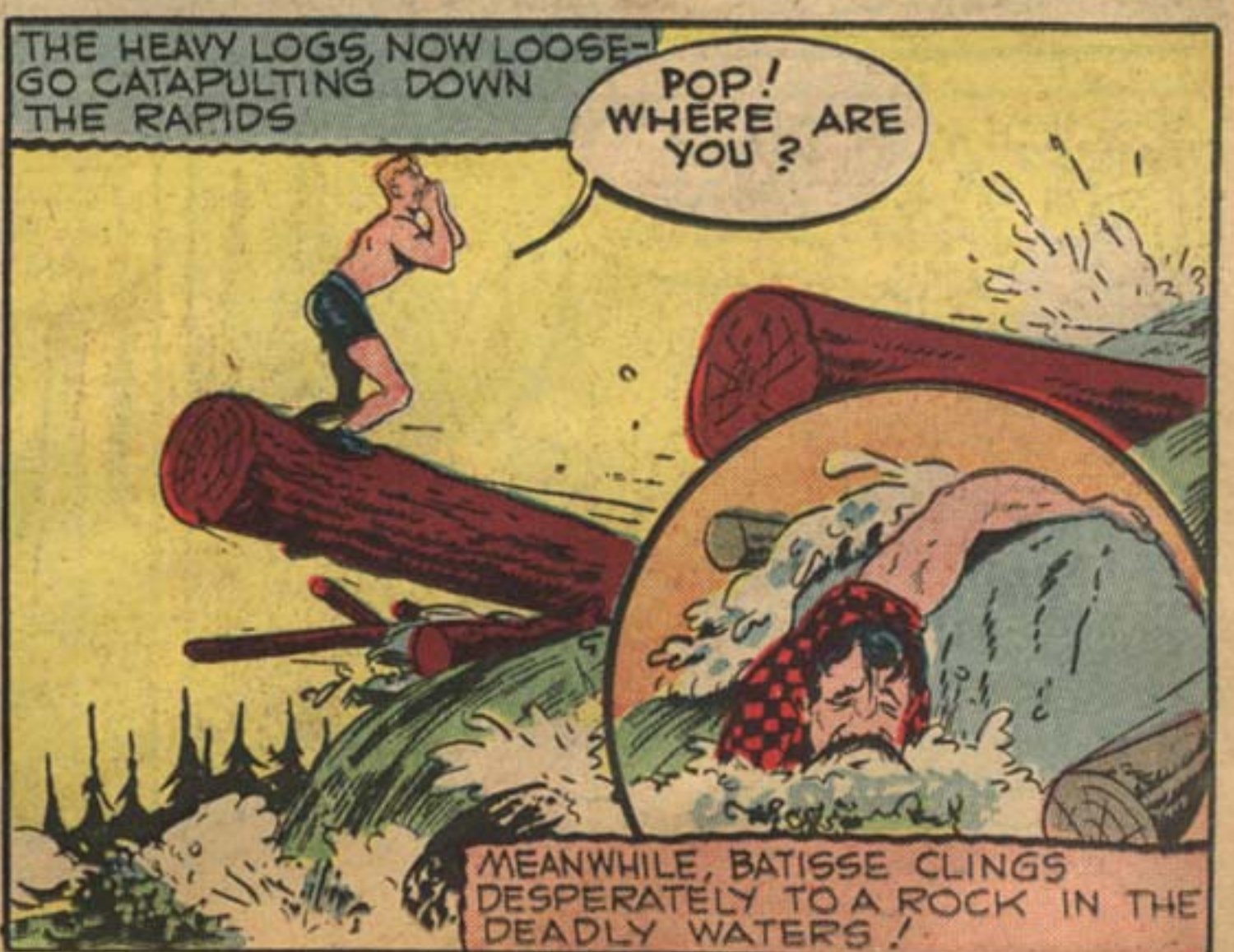
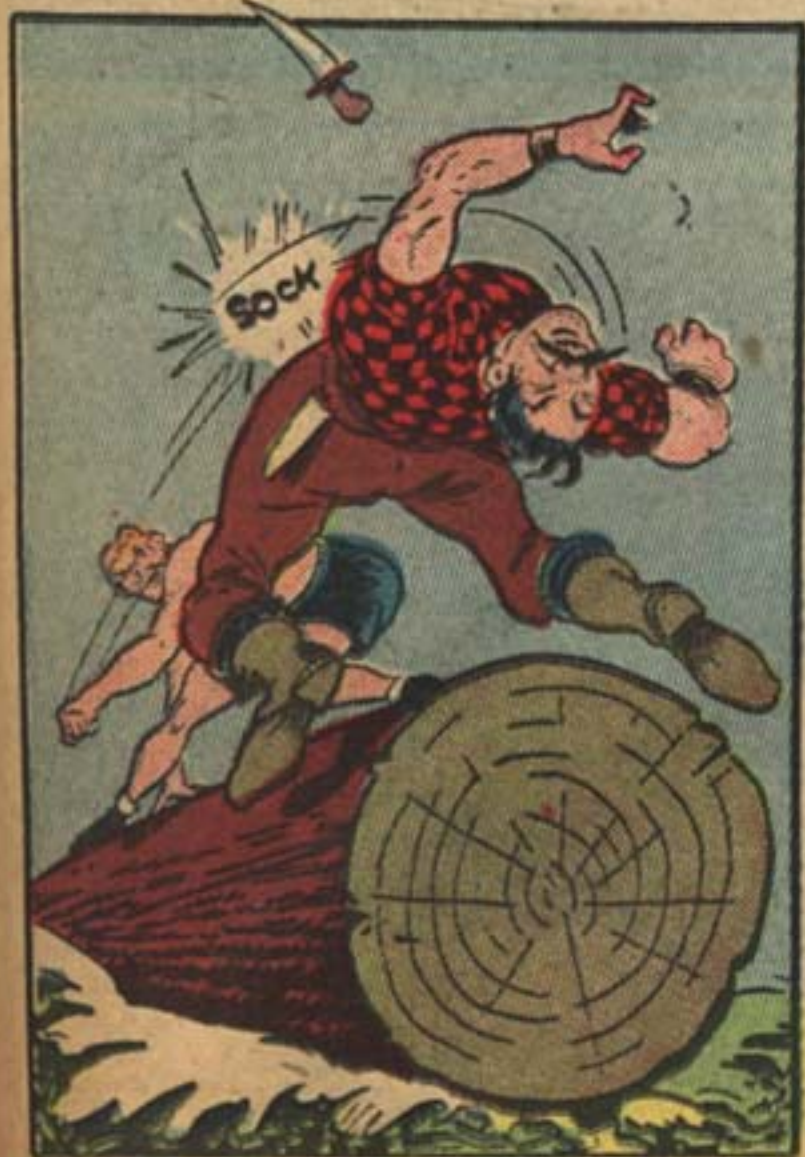
WHACK



ENRAGED, BATISSE DRAWS HIS BOWIE KNIFE !

NOW, MY FRAN - I SLICE YOU UP LIKE ZEE VENISON STEW !

SUDDENLY, A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION - AS THE MEN DYNAMITE THE JAM BELOW !



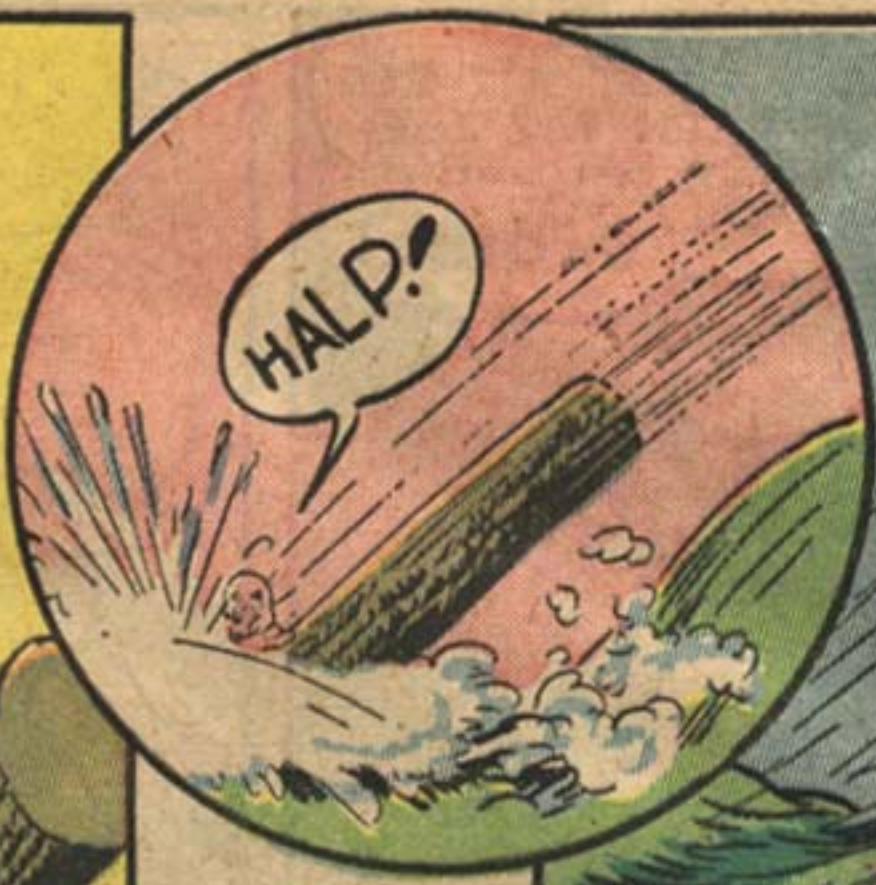
THE HEAVY LOGS, NOW LOOSE - GO CATAPULTING DOWN THE RAPIDS

POP ! WHERE ARE YOU ?

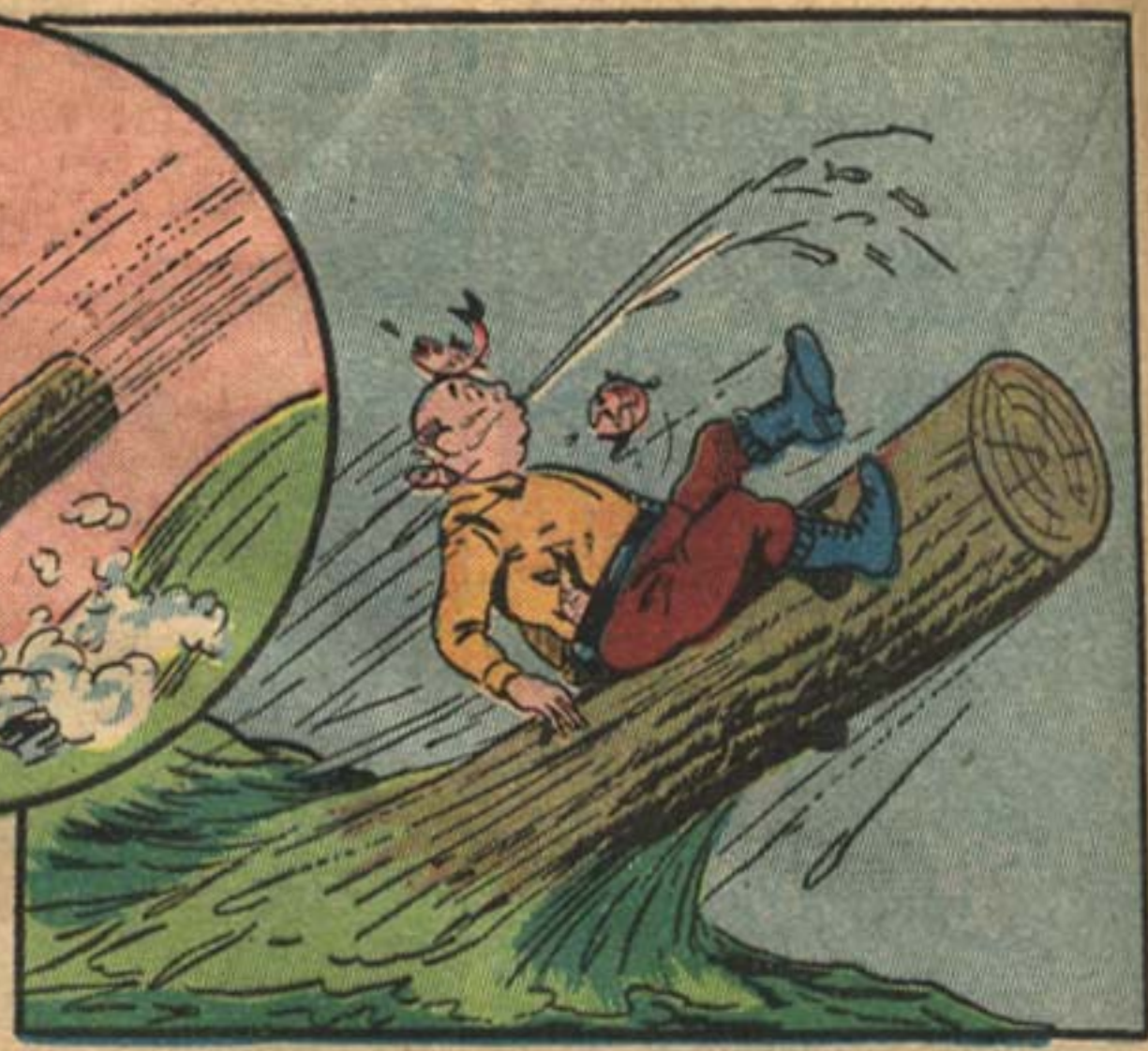
MEANWHILE, BATISSE CLINGS DESPERATELY TO A ROCK IN THE DEADLY WATERS !



HERE I AM JIM!
I CAN'T MAKE UP
MY MIND WHICH
LOG TO RIDE!



HALP!



GUESS I PICKED
THE WRONG LOG.

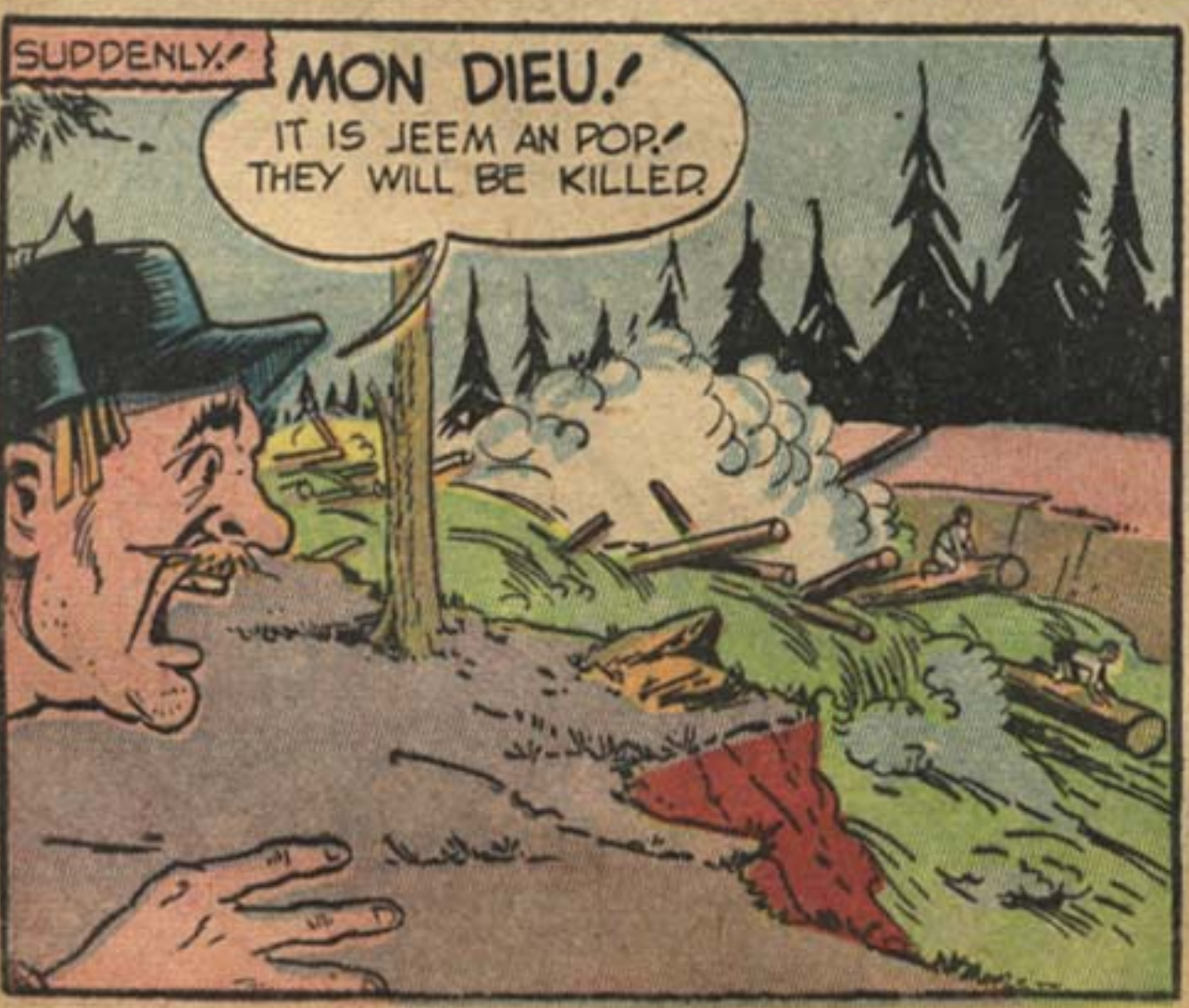
MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF THEIR FRIENDS' IMPENDING DANGER THE LUMBERJACKS ARE FAR DOWN THE RIVER WORKING MERRILY AT THEIR DAILY TASK.



ALOETTA
GENTIL
ALOETTA

TEEM-
BAIRRR!

CRACK

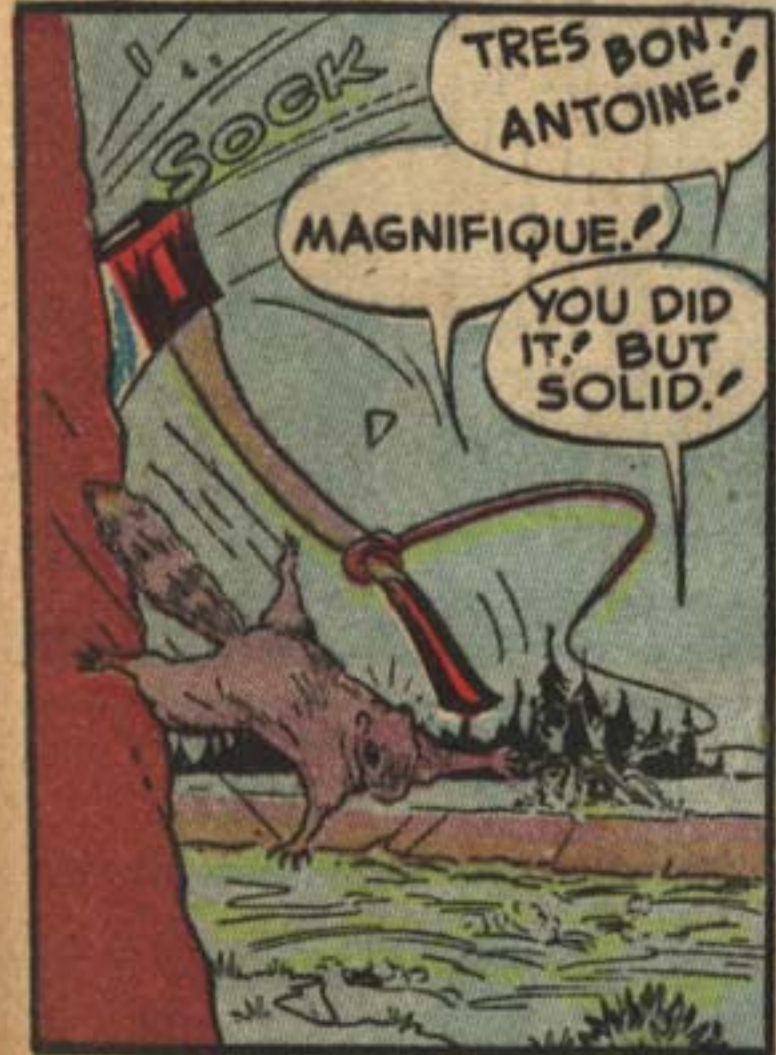


SUDDENLY!
MON DIEU!
IT IS JEEM AN POP!
THEY WILL BE KILLED



QUICK! QUICK!
DOWN THE RIVAIRE,
AND BRING ZEE AXÉ
AND ROPE!

QUE EST CE QUE C'EST?




NOW THAT THE **ST. LOUIS KID** IS IN TRIM AGAIN, YOU SURE WON'T WANT TO MISS THE **BIG FIGHT** IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **TOP NOTCH COMICS**

SHIELD-WIZARD NO.5

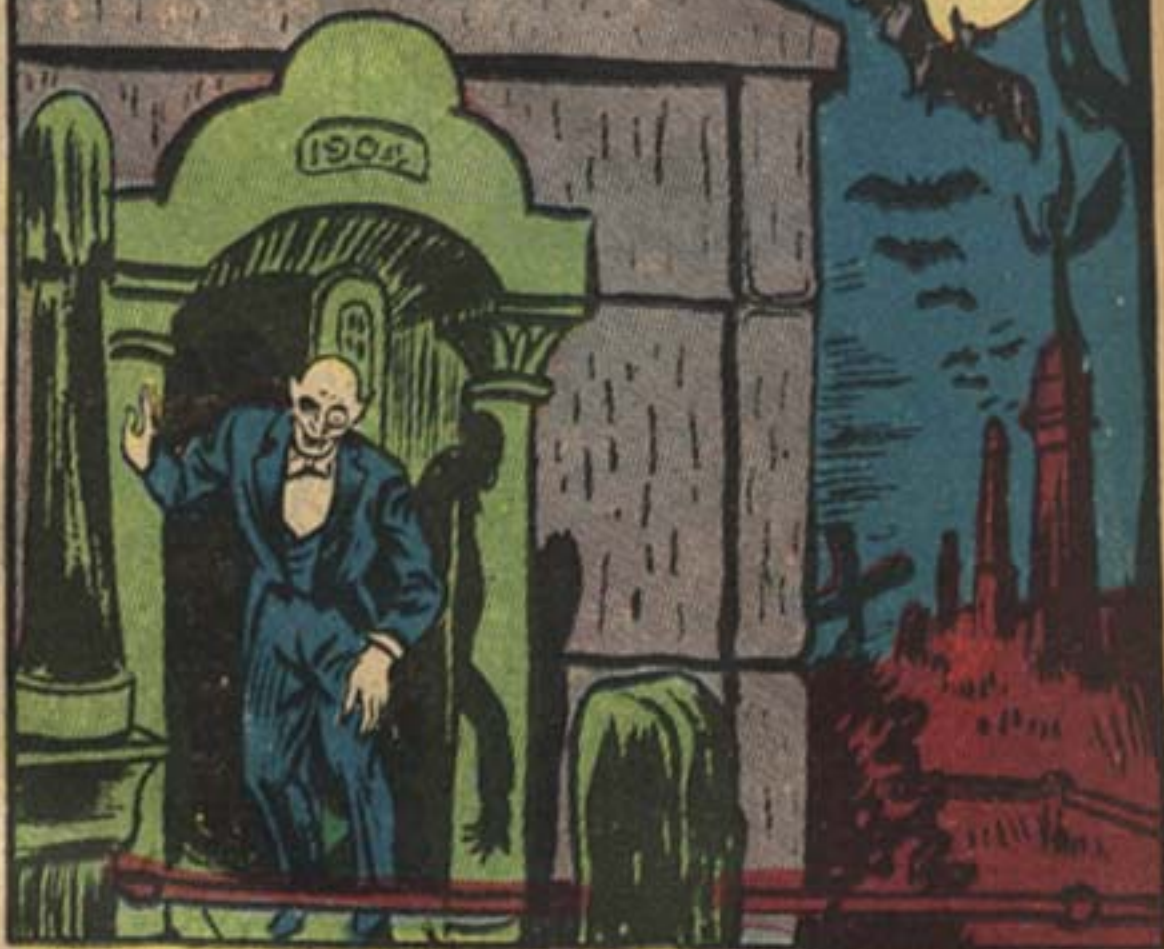
A FOUR-STAR SMASH HIT FROM COAST TO COAST

ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTANDS RIGHT NOW!

PRESENTING
SHIELD-WIZARD No.5
STARRING

JOE HIGGINS - THE ORIGINAL
• SHIELD •
DUSTY - THE SPECTACULAR
• BOY DETECTIVE •
BLANE WHITNEY THE WIZARD.....
• ROY THE SUPERBOY •
OSCAR THE OSTRICH

AN OWL HOOTS DISMALLY,
PERCHED ON ITS GRAVEYARD
ROOST AND FROM OUT
THE MAUSOLEUM
STEPS THE HIDEOUS-
MONOCLED-MONSTER TO
GIVE BATTLE TO THE *SHIELD!*



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, THEY BATTLE, THOSE
TWO INVINCIBLES OF THE AGE - *THE WIZARD*
AND *ROY THE SUPERBOY*



ONCE AGAIN, *DUSTY, THE SPECTACULAR BOY DETECTIVE*, PLAYS A LONE HAND IN A WALLOPING, THRILL-PACKED YARN!



WINGS JOHNSON OF THE Air Patrol



ENEMY PLANES COM-
ING WARN DER
U-BOAT
BASE!

ENGLISHERS
HEADED YOUR
WAY- START
DER SMOKE
SCREEN!

BECAUSE OF PERSISTENT REPORTS OF
A SUBMARINE ASSEMBLY PLANT
ON THE NAZI OCCUPIED FRENCH
COAST, WINGS JOHNSON, AND HIS
PAL HENRY HIGGINS, ARE ON THEIR
WAY TO INVESTIGATE WITH A
FLIGHT OF VICKERS WELL-
INGTON BOMBERS.

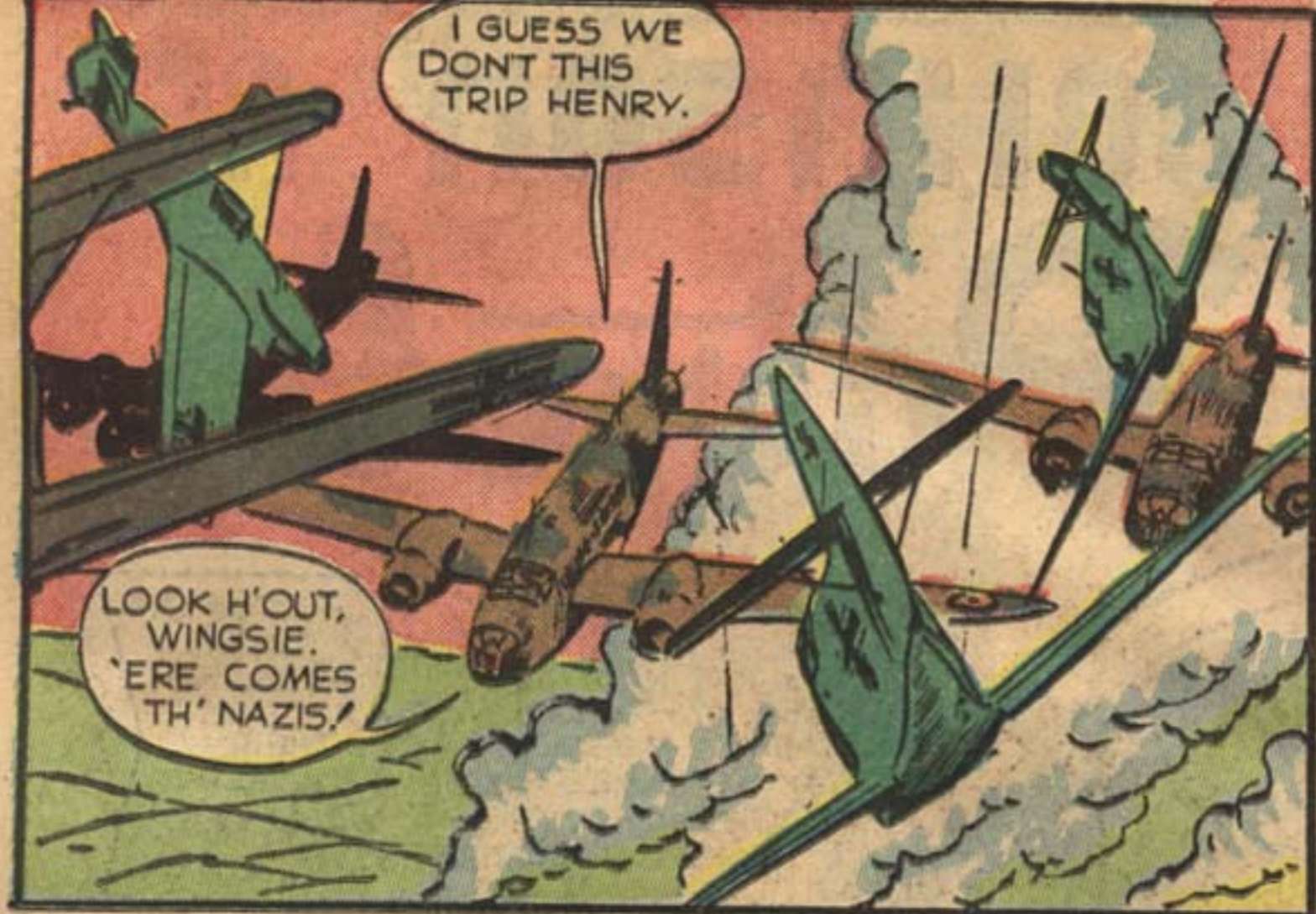
AS THEY APPROACH THE
FRENCH SHORE, DENSE
CLOUDS OF ARTIFICIAL
FOG BLOT OUT THE
COAST LINE.

THIS MUST BE
THE SPOT, HENRY,
THAT SMOKE-
SCREEN ISN'T
BEING PUT UP
FOR PRACTICE!

MEBBE SO
WINGSIE, BUT
'OW DO WE
SEE 'H' OUR
'H' OBJECTIVE?



ED
SMALL
41



I GUESS WE DONT THIS TRIP HENRY.

LOOK H'OUT, WINGSIE. 'ERE COMES TH' NAZIS!



ATTENTION BOYS! EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF - THE BOMBING RAIDS OFF! MEET AGAIN ABOVE DOVER!



HENRY BRINGS HIS GUNS INTO ACTION!

BLI' ME WINGSIE, THESE BIRDS ARE OVER ANXIOUS - H'I JUST GOT A SWELL SHOT AT ONE OF THEM!



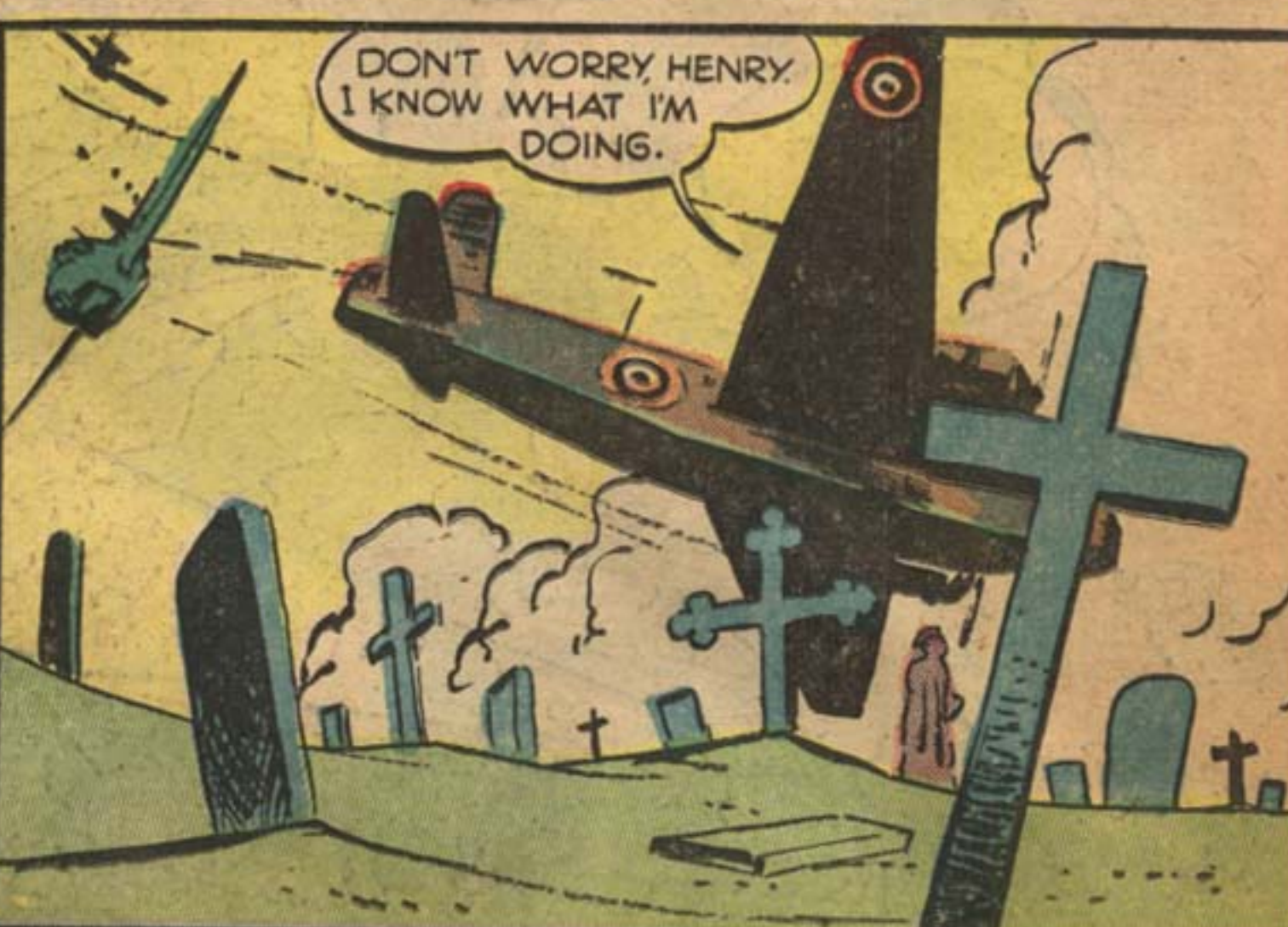
WINGS COVERS HIS BUDDIES RETREAT.....



BUT FINALLY GETS INTO DIFFICULTY HIMSELF! HE DIVES!



WINGSIE! LOOK H'OUT! YOU'LL CRASH INTO THAT GRAVE YARD!



DONT WORRY, HENRY. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.



SEE! WE FINALLY SHOOK OFF THAT MESSERSCHMIDT!



NOW WE'LL HEDGE-HOP BACK ACROSS THE CHANNEL- WE WILL HAVE TO GET PHOTOS OF THAT SPOT BEFORE WE TRY IT AGAIN.



OVER DOVER, THE FLIGHT REFORMS AND RETURNS TO ITS BASE.

SAY HENRY, DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING FUNNY ABOUT THAT GRAVE YARD?

WHAT D'YE MEAN WINGSIE?



I DUNNO- BUT IT SEEMED TO ME.... WAIT NOW. NO, IT COULDN'T BE!

ELUCIDATE OLE PAL, H' EXPLAIN YOURSELF!



OF COURSE! IT MUST BE! AND IT'D NEVER SHOW IN A PHOTOGRAPH!

WHAT? WHO? WHEN? WHERE? I SAY- WHAT IS THIS?



WELL, H' I'LL BE...

WAIT THERE HENRY, I'M GOIN' TO SEE THE CO.!



LISTEN, COLONEL. I THINK I'VE LOCATED THAT U-BOAT PLANT. IT'S UNDER A CEMETERY!

WHAT?



YESSIR, I HAD TO DIVE PRETTY CLOSE TO IT AND IT LOOKED LIKE A FAKE TO ME! WHY NOT LET US GO OVER TONIGHT AND DROP A FEW STICKS.



SORRY JOHNSON, WE CAN'T DO THAT. IF YOU ARE WRONG IT WOULD INCENSE THE FRENCH PEOPLE AGAINST US! WE WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT TILL WE HAVE POSITIVE PROOF!

GLUMLY WINGS LEAVES.

HECK- BY THE TIME WE GET PROOF A FEW MORE SUBS WILL BE IN COMMISSION.

WHAT GOES H'ON, WINGSIE.



LISTEN, HENRY, GET THAT BIG FISH HOOK OF YOURS, THEN MEET ME OVER AT THE "BATTLE" HANGAR. I'VE GOT AN IDEA.



IN A FEW MINUTES THEY TAKE OFF.

H'I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' H'ON, WINGSIE.

YOU WILL!



ONCE MORE WINGS JOHNSON APPROACHES THE FRENCH SHORE.

ANUDDER BRITISHER. WARN THEM AT THE FACTORY!

YESSIR!



GET THAT HOOK OVERBOARD. HURRY. WE'RE GOING TO DO SOME FISHING.

RIGHTO, OLE TOP.



WINGS SWOOPS LOW OVER THE CEMETERY.....



AND THE HOOK RIPS THROUGH A GIANT NET- REVEALING THE SUB BASE.



VE IS DISCOVERED!

HELP!

LET ME OUT OF HERE!



B'GARSH THE CEMETERY
'H AINT A CEMETERY H'AT
'H'ALL!



THATS RIGHT, HENRY, AND
AS SOON AS WE DROP OUR
BOMBS IT WON'T BE A U-
BOAT BASE EITHER!



LET 'EM
GO, HENRY!

WITH PLEASURE
WINGSIE!



AS WINGS ROARS OVER THE BASE, HENRY DROPS HIS BOMBS.



IN A FEW MINUTES THE PLACE IS A SHAMBLES!



WE DID A THOROUGH
JOB-WAIT TILL
THE CQ HEARS
OF THIS!





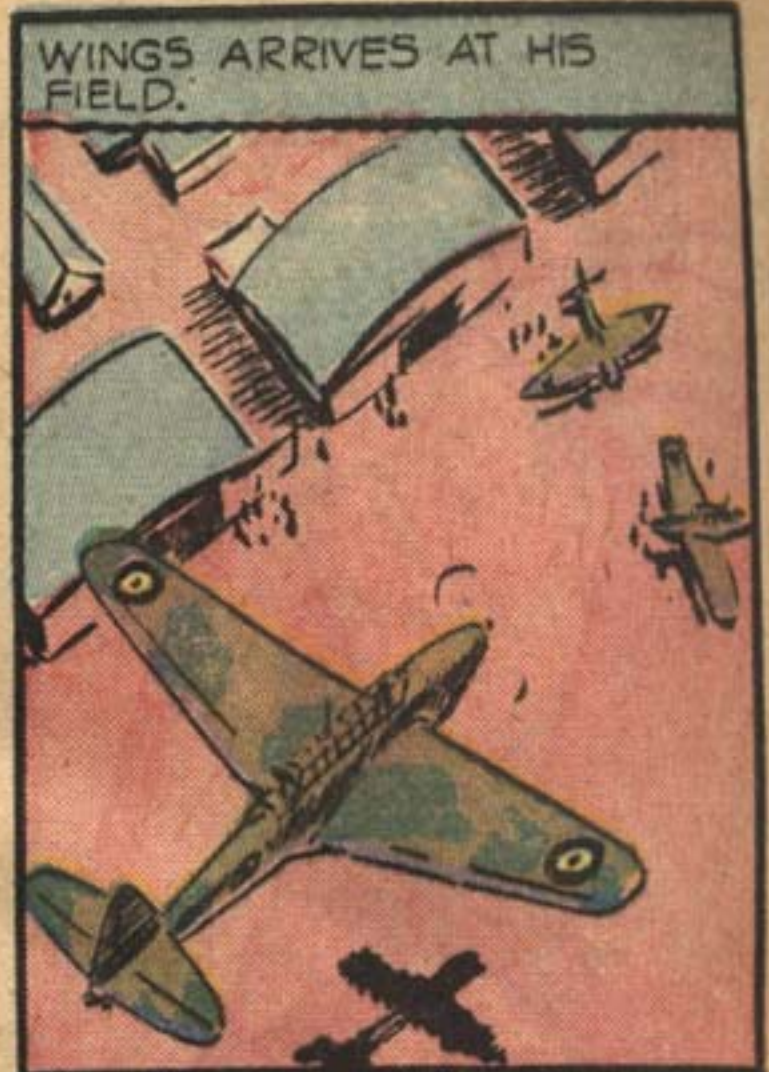
WINGS HEADS FOR HOME.....

OOPS! H'I DROPPED MY HOOK!

NEVER MIND HENRY.



BUT THAT WAS MY BEST SHARK HOOK!



WINGS ARRIVES AT HIS FIELD.



OH OH! 'ERE COME THE CO.

AND HE LOOKS KINDA MAD!

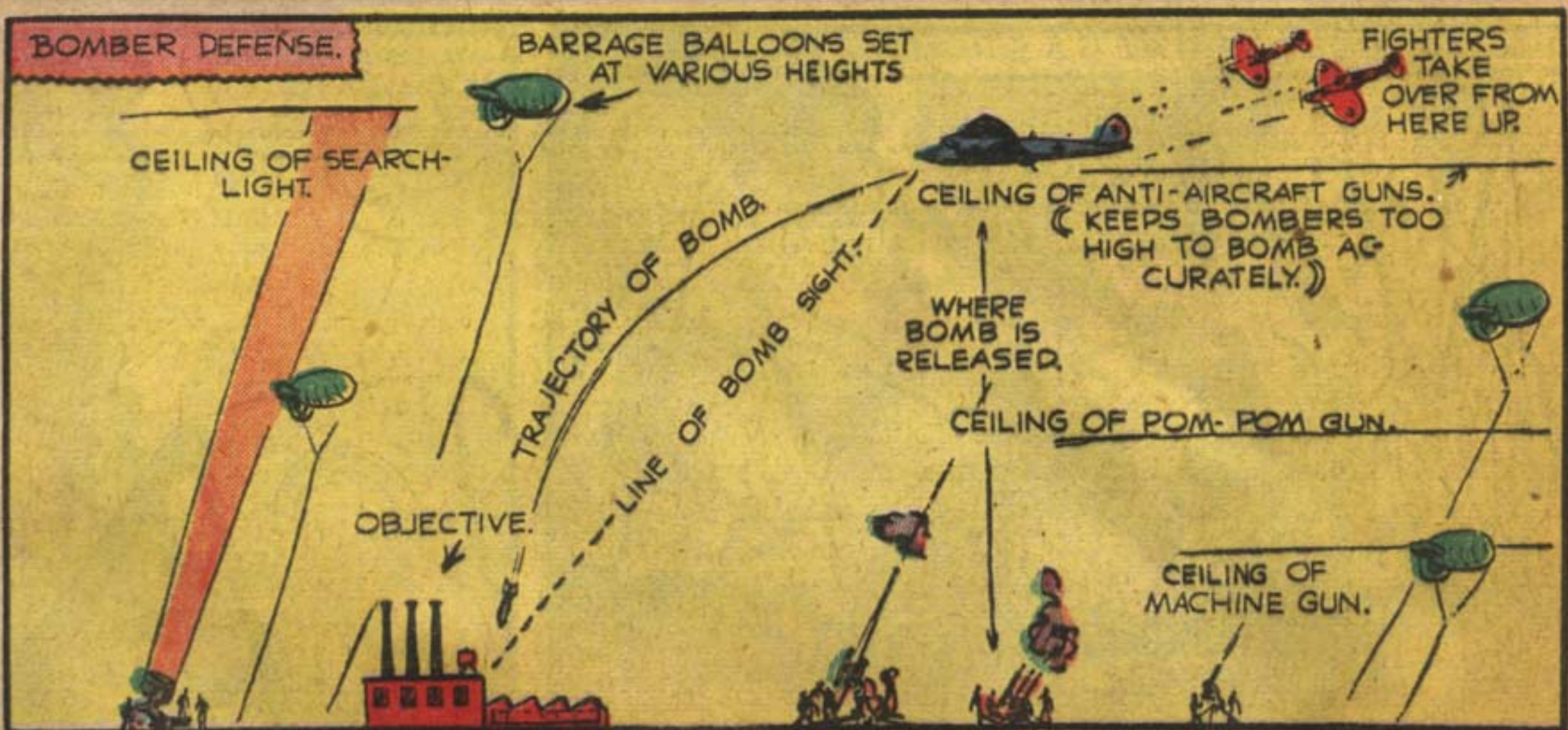
JOHNSON! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN! NOT BLASTING THAT GRAVE YARD I HOPE!



YESSIR, WE BLASTED IT WIDE OPEN- BUT FIRST WE RIPPED OFF THAT PHONEY CEMETERY AND GOT A GOOD LOOK AT THE U-BOATS UNDERNEATH.

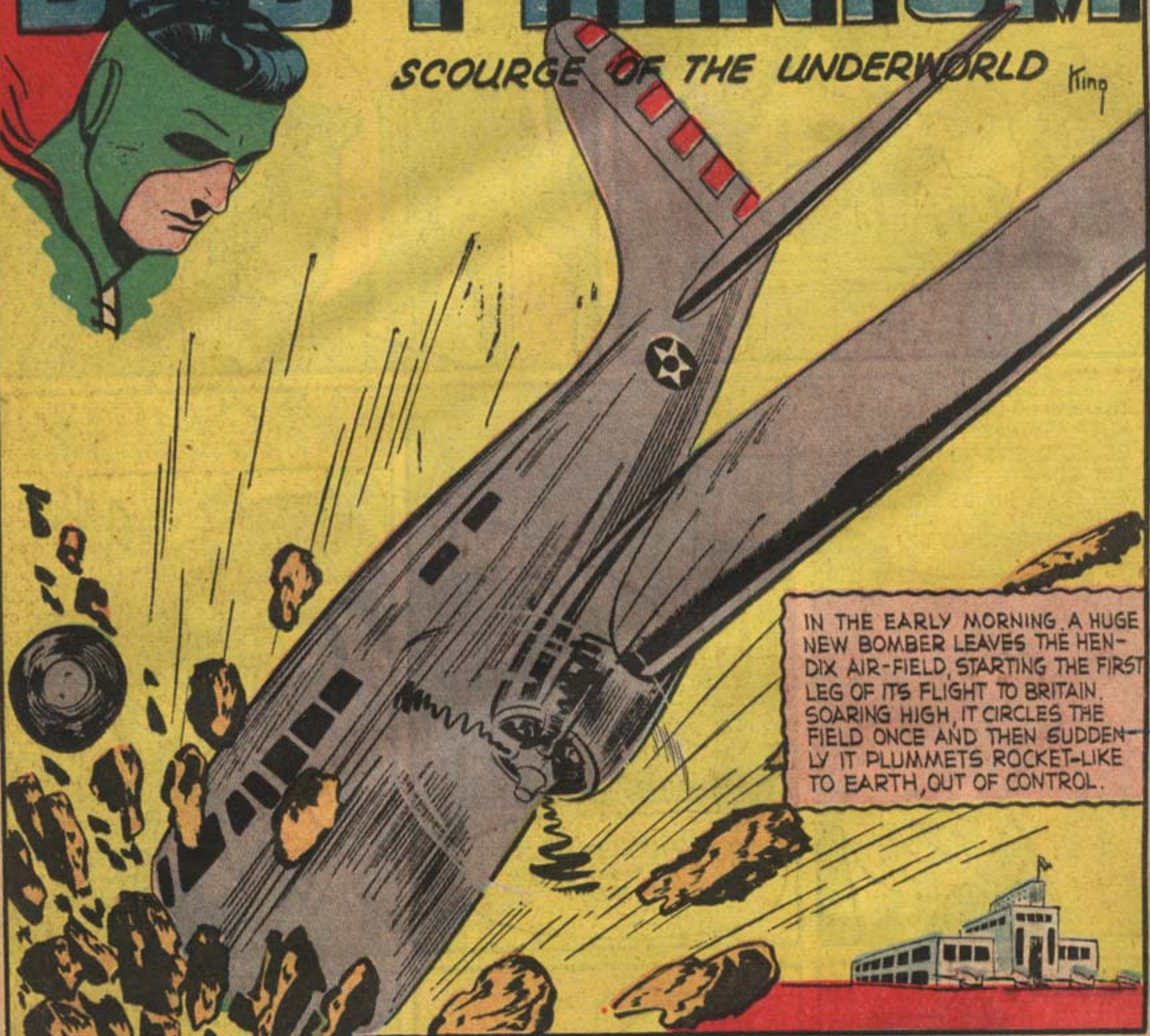
HE TOOK MY BEST SHARK HOOK AND LOST IT ON ME, SIR.

I SEE- YOU WENT FISHING AND CAUGHT SOME TIN FISH.



BOB PHANTOM

SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD King



IN THE EARLY MORNING, A HUGE NEW BOMBER LEAVES THE HENDIX AIR-FIELD, STARTING THE FIRST LEG OF ITS FLIGHT TO BRITAIN. SOARING HIGH, IT CIRCLES THE FIELD ONCE AND THEN SUDDENLY IT PLUMMETS ROCKET-LIKE TO EARTH, OUT OF CONTROL.

LATER THAT DAY AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS



IT'S TRUE I TELL YOU CAPTAIN. I'M CERTAIN OF IT!

WELL NOW I UNDERSTAND. JUST DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING YOU GO ON HOME AND LEAVE EVERYTHING TO US.





JUST THEN, WALT WHITNEY, PROMINENT BROADWAY COLUMNIST, ENTERS THE ROOM!

REMEMBER NOW, DON'T BREATHE A WORD OF THIS TO ANYONE ELSE!

I WON'T CAPTAIN



SAY WHAT IS ALL THIS? YOU BOYS KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO KEEP SECRETS FROM ME!

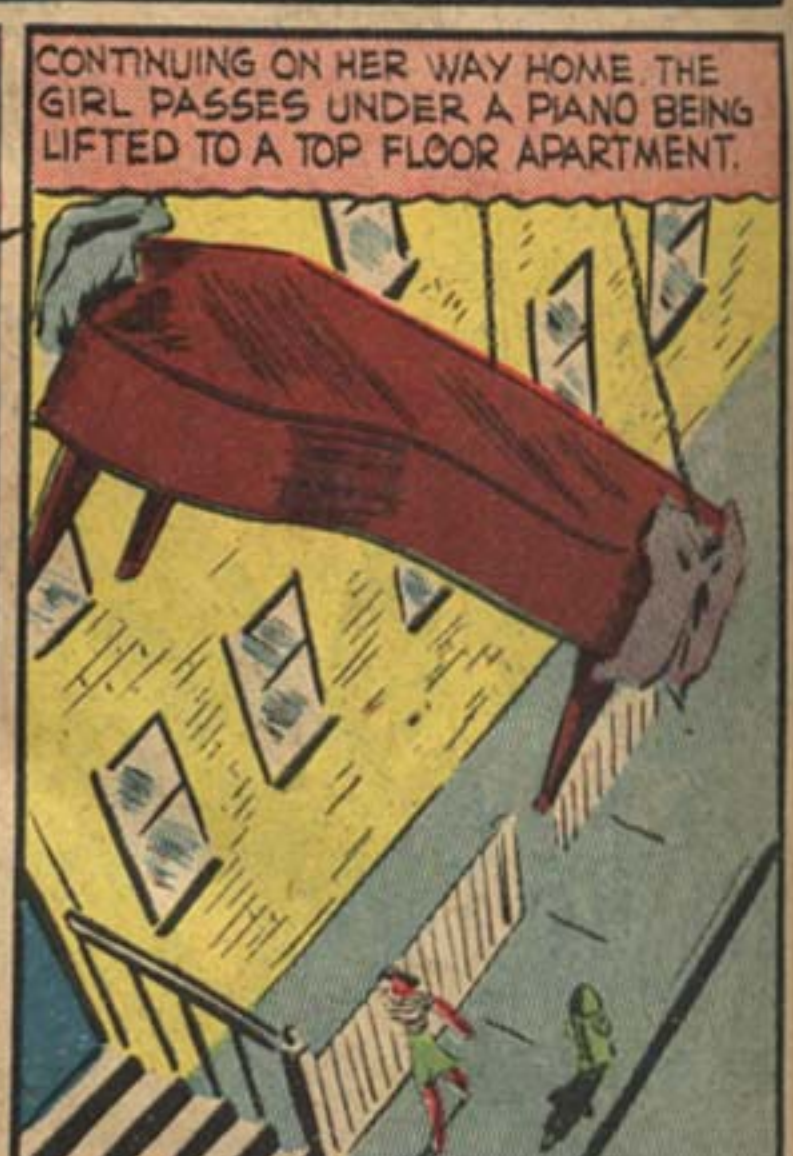


YOU'RE RIGHT WHITNEY. I GUESS THERE'S NO USE IN TRYING TO KEEP ANYTHING FROM YOU. I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A REAL HOT TIP. GO AFTER THAT GIRL SHE'S GOT SOME INSIDE INFORMATION THAT YOU'LL BE MIGHTY INTERESTED IN!



WHITNEY RUSHES OUT AFTER THE GIRL.

HO, HO, WAIT'LL THAT SCREW BALL STARTS HIM ON HER MERRY GO ROUND.



CONTINUING ON HER WAY HOME, THE GIRL PASSES UNDER A PIANO BEING LIFTED TO A TOP FLOOR APARTMENT.



SUDDENLY

HOLY SMOKES! THAT PIANOS LOOSE! SHE'LL BE KILLED!



THE NEXT INSTANT A SWIRL OF WIND AND A PUFF OF EERIE WHITE SMOKE ---- BOB PHANTOM



A DESPERATE LEAD AND THE GIRL IS CARRIED TO SAFETY.



IT CAME FROM THAT THIRD FLOOR WINDOW.



SHE'LL BE ALRIGHT, THERE FOR A FEW MINUTES! I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT



THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE!



BOB PHANTOM ENTERS THE APARTMENT AND -----

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!

OW!



I WAS WAITING FOR MY PARTNER TO COME BACK WHEN SOME GUY SNEAKED UP FROM BEHIND, AND SLUGGED ME!

I SEE!



HE SEEMED TO BE TELLING THE TRUTH. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH SOMEONE IS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO GET RID OF THAT GIRL!



ONCE MORE ASSUMING THE ROLE OF WALT WHITNEY, HE RETURNS TO THE DAZED GIRL

YOU REALLY HAD A CLOSE CALL. DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU OUT OF THE WAY!

YES! YOU SEE I'M THE SECRETARY FOR MR. HENDIX, THE AIRPLANE MANUFACTURER. RECENTLY MANY OF OUR NEW PLANES HAVE BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY DESTROYED!



THEN TOO I NOTICED A QUEER CHANGE IN MR. HENDIX, HE DIDN'T QUITE SEEM LIKE HIMSELF. HE APPEARED TO BE A STRANGER. WHEN HE TRIED TO DRAW CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION WHICH HE WAS SUPPOSED TO KNOW, FROM ME, MY SUSPICIONS WERE CONFIRMED.



I'M CONVINCED THAT SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO MR. HENDIX, AND A CLEVER IMPOSTOR IS IN HIS PLACE. I'M CERTAIN THAT HE'S SABOTAGING OUR BOMBERS! HE MUST KNOW I SUSPECT HIM!

SAY, YOU'VE REALLY STUMBLED ONTO SOMETHING. LET'S GO DOWN TO YOUR PLANT AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND.



THAT'S THE NEWEST SHIP IT'S DUE TO LEAVE SOMETIME TO-DAY



I DONT SEE ANTHING WRONG IN HERE MAYBE THE TROUBLE IS IN THE ENGINE!



SUDDENLY
SO YOU'RE INTERESTED IN MY PLANES ARE YOU?

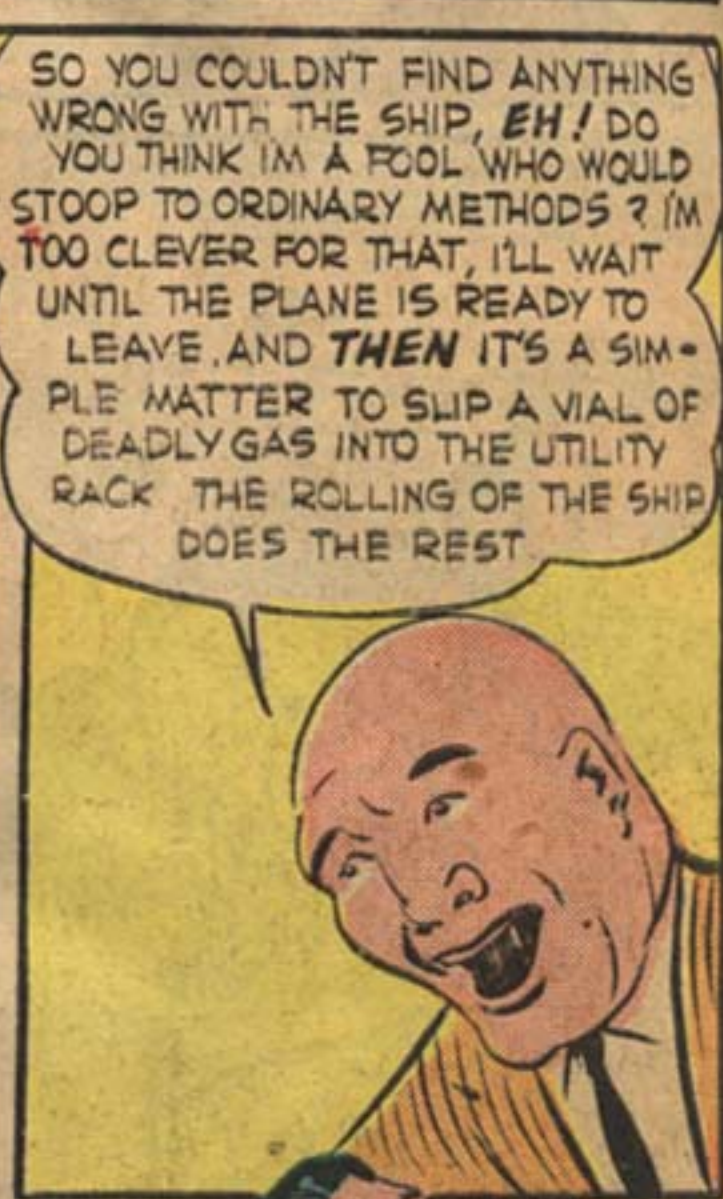


GET MOVING AND I'LL SHOW YOU THE REST OF FACTORY!



IN A SECLUDED PART OF THE PLANT WHITNEY AND THE GIRL ARE TIED TO HUGE DRILLS.

HURRY BOYS WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THAT PLANE ITS DUE TO LEAVE SOON START THOSE DRILLS SLOWLY IT'LL GIVE THEM TIME TO THINK BEFORE THEY DIE!



SO YOU COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH THE SHIP, EH! DO YOU THINK I'M A FOOL WHO WOULD STOOP TO ORDINARY METHODS? I'M TOO CLEVER FOR THAT, I'LL WAIT UNTIL THE PLANE IS READY TO LEAVE, AND THEN IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER TO SLIP A VIAL OF DEADLY GAS INTO THE UTILITY RACK THE ROLLING OF THE SHIP DOES THE REST.



IF I CAN ONLY CATCH THESE CORDS IN THOSE GEAR TEETH THEY MIGHT BE CUT!



BUCK UP, IF THIS WORKS I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE BEFORE THOSE DRILLS ARE AN INCH CLOSER

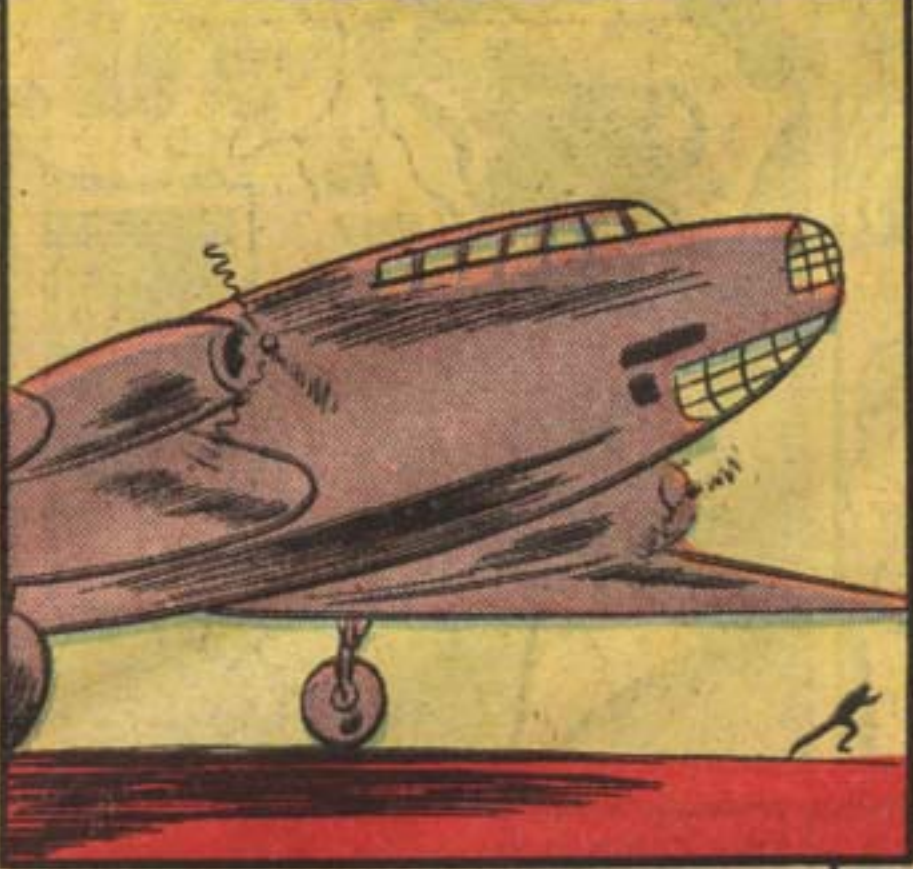


IT WORKED MY HANDS ARE FREE!

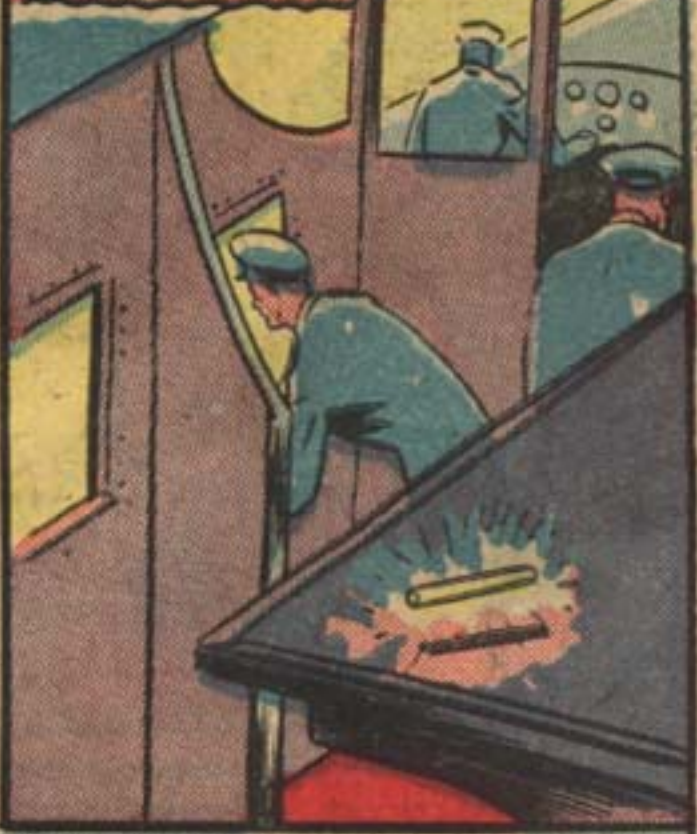
YOU GO CALL THE POLICE. I'LL TRY TO GET TO THAT PLANE BEFORE IT LEAVES!



AS WALT WHITNEY REACHES THE FIELD, THE BOMBER HAS ALREADY STARTED DOWN THE RUNWAY FOR ITS TAKE OFF



THE PLANE STARTS TO RISE, THE VIAL OF GAS ROLLS SLOWLY TO THE EDGE OF THE RACK!



SUDDENLY, AS IT IS ABOUT TO HIT THE GROUND, OUT OF A PUFF OF EERIE WHITE SMOKE COMES THE HAND OF BOB PHANTOM TO CATCH IT IN MID-AIR.



MEANWHILE



HURRY DOWN, CAPTAIN. I'LL TRY TO DETAIN THEM UNTIL YOU GET HERE!

SHE RUSHES TO THE OFFICE, WHERE THE TRIO IS SITTING AND----



WHO'S THAT!

WHAT!

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS. NOBODY WILL TAKE YOUR WORD AGAINST MINE!



WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT YOU IMPOSTORS!



WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE!

I'M GLAD YOU GOT HERE, OFFICER. ARREST THAT GIRL. SHE'S THE ONE THAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WRECKING OF MY PLANES. SHE IS TRYING TO MAKE IT APPEAR AS THOUGH I'M TO BLAME.



NO! I TELL YOU IT'S HE WHO'S DOING IT. HE'S NOT MR. HENDIX. HE'S A FRAUD.

WHY THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS SHE'S MAD.

I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING PHONY ABOUT YOU, WHEN YOU WERE DOWN AT HEAD-QUARTERS THIS MORNING.

JUST THEN BOB PHANTOM RUSHES INTO THE ROOM!

COME ON! ALONG SISTER, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

NO!
NO!

OH! SO YOU'RE MIXED UP IN THIS, TOO? THIS IS ONE TIME YOU WON'T GET AWAY!

WAIT A MINUTE! IF THIS GUY CLAIMS HE IS HENDIX WHY DON'T YOU CHECK HIS FINGER PRINTS, THAT SHOULD SETTLE THINGS.

THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA, MR. HENDIX. IT WON'T TAKE UP MUCH TIME AND IT WILL SATISFY EVEN THIS PAIR OF HOODLUMS!

WHY! I WON'T HEAR OF SUCH A THING!

REALIZING THAT HE IS ABOUT TO BE EXPOSED, HENDIX MAKES A DASH FOR THE DOOR.

HOWEVER

WHAT'S THE MATTER? AFRAID TO DIRTY YOUR FINGERS ON THE INK PAD?

HERE Y'ARE CAPTAIN, LISTEN TO THIS BIRD'S SONG!

ALRIGHT!!

THE GAME IS UP, ANYWAY! I'M NOT HENDIX. WE GOT RID OF HIM MONTHS AGO AND I TOOK HIS PLACE. WE LOOKED SO MUCH ALIKE, NO ONE WAS WISE UNTIL THAT SECRETARY STARTED SNOOPING AROUND!

ONCE MORE THERE IS A SWIRL OF WIND AND A PUFF OF SMOKE AND BOB PHANTOM DISAPPEARS.

NEXT DAY

AW. GO PEDDLE YOUR PAPERS!

TRIED TO PULL A FAST ONE ON ME EH BOYS! WE'LL READ MY COLUMN AND SEE WHAT YOUR PHONY TIP TURNED INTO!

IT'S HERE! IT'S HERE! IT'S HERE!
THE HANGMAN
IN A BRAND NEW COMIC BOOK OF HIS
OWN !!!

THANKS FOR ALL THOSE LETTERS ASKING FOR ME, TO APPEAR IN A BOOK OF MY OWN, I'M BRINGING ALONG WITH ME THOSE TWO YOUNG BUDDIES, DUSTY THE SPECTACULAR BOY DETECTIVE, ROY THE SUPERBOY !! WE'LL DO OUR DARNDDEST TO GIVE YOU THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE !!!



YIPEE !! HERE I COME HANGMAN! HOW ABOUT YOU, ROY !!

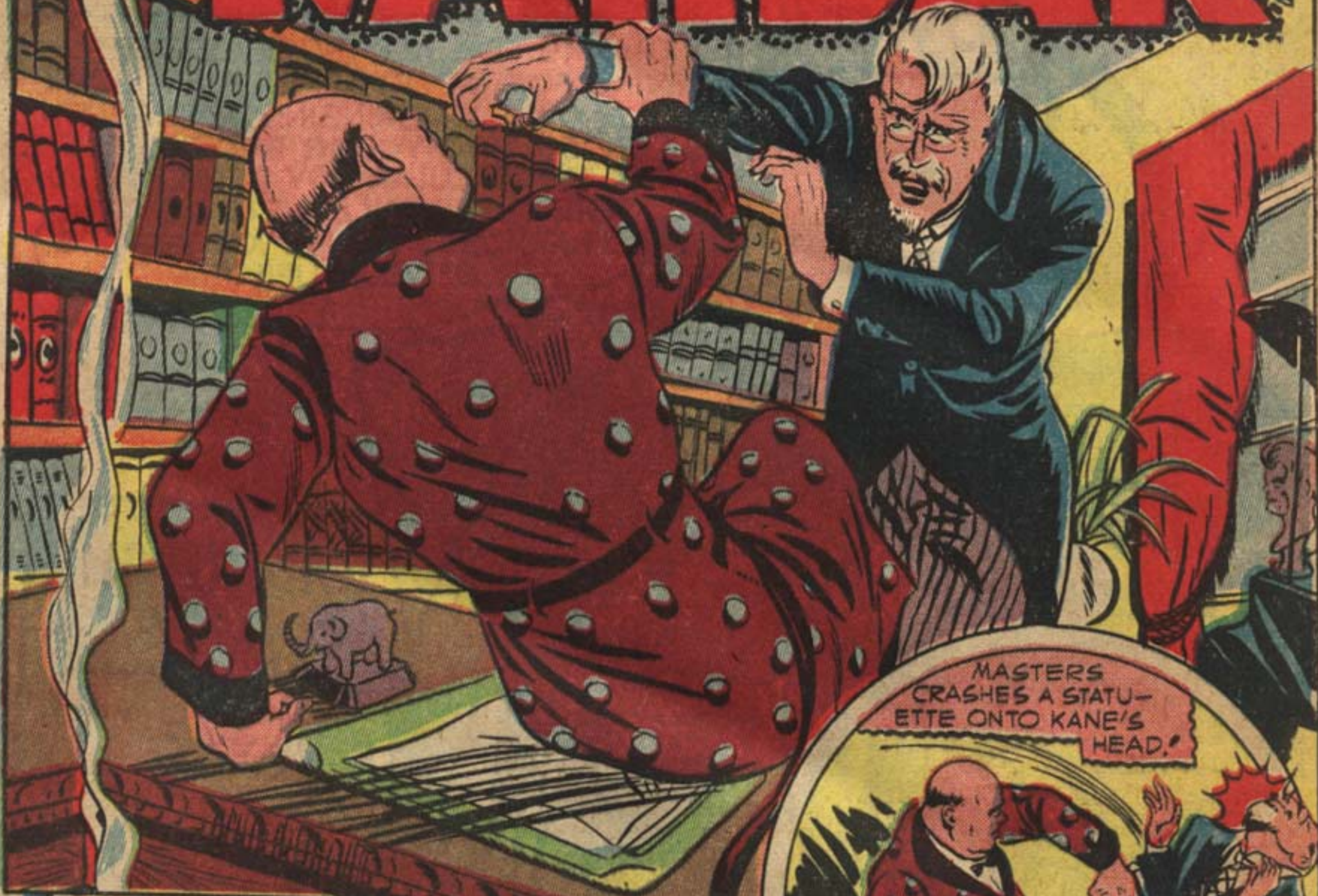
YOU BETCHA DUSTY!! WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD WE'RE BUDDIES FROM NOW ON,

BOY BUDDIES!!!
ROY THE SUPERBOY, APPEAR

DUSTY THE SPECTACULAR BOY DETECTIVE, AND IN THE "HANGMAN COMICS, LOOK FOR IT !!!!

KARDAK

THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN



MASTERS
CRASHES A STATU-
ETTE ONTO KANE'S
HEAD!

IN THE HOME OF SILAS MASTERS, WEALTHY MANUFACTURER, A DRAMA OF GREED AND INJUSTICE REACHES ITS CLIMAX. JOHN KANE, POVERTY-STRICKEN INVENTOR OF THE PLANE WHICH MADE MASTERS RICH, SUDDENLY EXCLAIMS "THIEF," "CROOK" AND LUNGES AT MASTERS."



paul reinman



AT THAT MOMENT, KARDAK PASSING THE MASTER'S HOME FINDS A TERRIFIED GIRL AT THE GATE...



WHAT IS IT, MY DEAR?
IT'S MY FATHER. HE'S WITH MR. MASTERS AND I JUST HEARD SCREAMS!

KARDAK GRASPS THE IRON BARS—INTONES A MAGIC PHRASE—AND THEY BECOME RUBBER IN HIS HANDS



NOW WE'LL ENTER.



GIVE ME THE POLICE—QUICK! ER—SAY, WHO ARE YOU?

MERELY A CURIOUS OBSERVER



DAD, WHAT HAS THIS BEAST DONE TO YOU?

HE STILL REFUSES TO GIVE ME MY SHARE OF THE MONEY!



HE STOLE THE PLANS FROM ME AND NOW I'M PENNILESS!

HE'S A LIAR! THE PLANE IS MY INVENTION, AND SO IS THE MONEY!



YOUR GREED IS YOUR CURSE, MASTERS! I'LL LIVE TO SEE YOU SUFFER, AS I'VE SUFFERED!

GET OUT I'VE HEARD ENOUGH! TAKE HIM AWAY, OFFICER!



THIS IS NO AFFAIR OF YOURS—NOW GET OUT!

VERY WELL, PERHAPS I'VE BEEN TOO BOLD. COME, MY DEAR.



AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO HELP US.

BE PATIENT. I'M CALLING HERE AGAIN—SOON!



THOSE FOOLS! DO THEY THINK I'LL PART WITH MY GOLD?



LATER MASTERS LOOKS IN HIS MIRROR AND SEES —

WHO — WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



WHY DO YOU WANT TO ROB THAT POOR INVENTOR? YOU HAVE ENOUGH MONEY AS IT IS!

NONSENSE, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS HAVING ENOUGH MONEY!



SO — GOLD IS YOUR GOD — YOUR CREED — LONG AGO, ANOTHER MAN LIVED AND THOUGHT AS YOU. HIS NAME WAS MIDAS. REMEMBER?



GET OUT — OR I'LL THROW YOU OUT!

YOU WANT GOLD? YOU SHALL HAVE IT!



GREAT HEAVENS! THIS STATUE! IT'S TURNED TO GOLD!

WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED, WASN'T IT?



INSANE WITH GREED, MASTERS RUSHES TO THE DOOR. AGAIN KARDAK ACTS...

I'LL TAKE THIS TO MY VAULT — IT'S A MIRACLE — A GOLDEN MIRACLE!



THE KNOB — IT'S GOLD TOO!



MY FONDEST DREAMS COME TRUE — ALL I TOUCH TURNS TO GOLD!



LOOK! GOLD! EVERY-
THING I TOUCH TURNS
TO GOLD! I'M A
MODERN MIDAS!



MY APOLOGIES, MR. KARDAK.
YOU'VE GIVEN ME A GIFT
UNRIVALLED IN HISTORY.
WON'T YOU HAVE
BREAKFAST WITH ME?



WHA..
(GULP) MY POTATOES!
THEY'VE TURNED
TO GOLD!

THAT
SHOULD
PLEASE
YOU!



WITH GREED AND
JOY, MASTERS SCOOPS
UP THE GOLDEN CHIPS...



DO YOU
SEE ANY
GOLDEN
POTATOES,
JAMES?

NO... THE
OLD COOT
MUST BE
NUTS!

GOLD!
PRECIOUS
GOLD!



COMPLETELY TAKEN
IN BY KARDAK'S
MAGIC, MASTERS
RUNS TO TELL HIS
DAUGHTER OF HIS
GOOD FORTUNE...

BETTY!
OH, BETTY!



MORNING, DAD! I WAS
JUST GOING FOR MY
MORNING CANTER.
WHAT IS IT?



AT HIS TOUCH, BOTH GIRL
AND HORSE BECOME
GOLDEN STATUES!

NO, NO - NOT MY
DAUGHTER! NOT
HER!



THE END

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